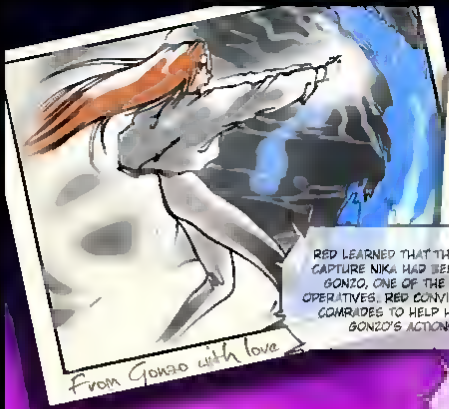
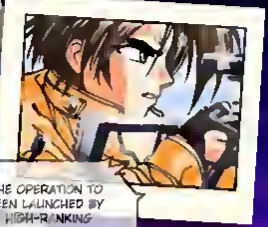
TELEKA

BLANK IN THE RAWS. IT'S JUST A
RUNDOWN OF THE FIRST HALF OF
CH 1, PRESUMABLY

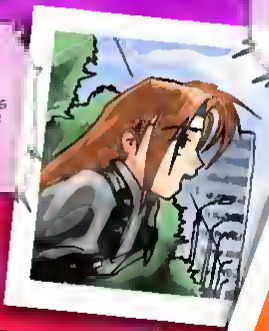




RED LEARNED THAT THE OPERATION TO CAPTURE NIKA HAD BEEN LAUNCHED BY GONZO, ONE OF THE HIGH-RANKING OPERATIVES. RED CONVINCED HIS FORMER COMRADES TO HELP HIM BY PROVING GONZO'S ACTIONS ILLEGAL.

NIKA, WITH HER NEWFOUND MAGICAL ABILITIES WAS ABLE TO DESTROY GONZO

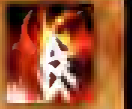
RED, NIKA AND THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIVES INVADED GONZO'S TOWER AND FACED HIM IN BATTLE



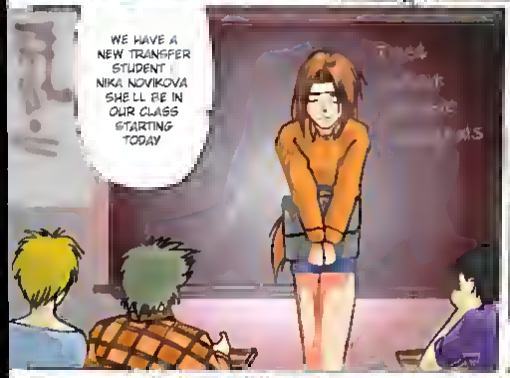
AFTER THE THREAT OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS GONE BRYS AND RED WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. BUT THE ADVENTURES DIDN'T END HERE. AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

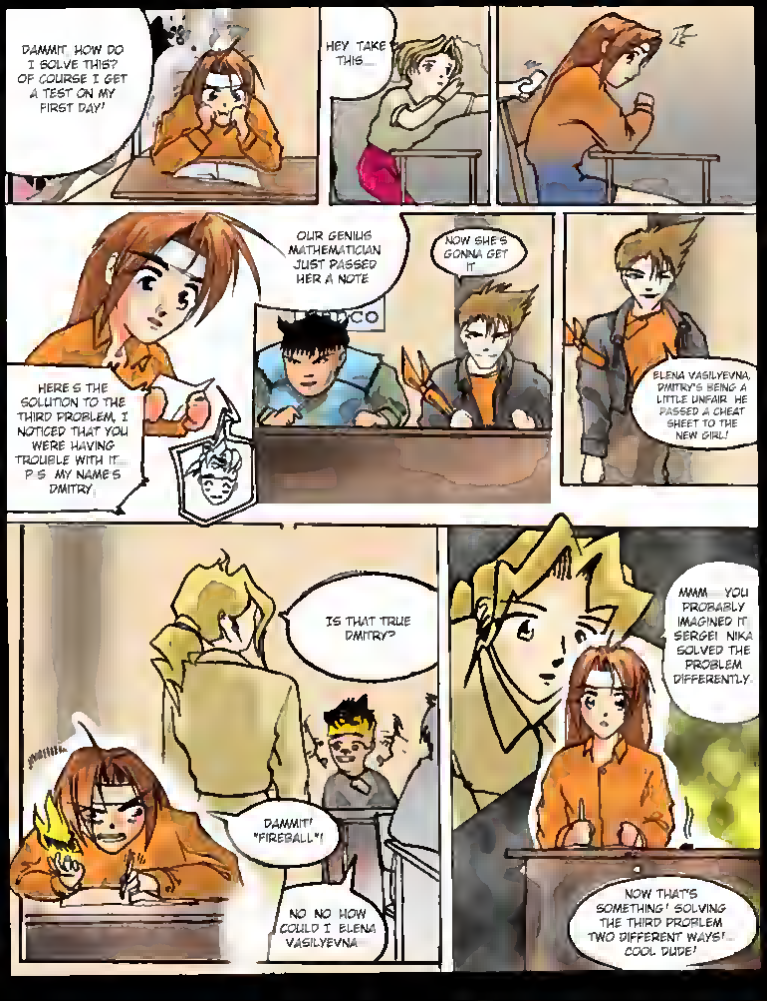
Huka

New School.



YEAH?
IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH! NIKA, DON'T YOU THINK DISAPPEARING FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR...
...IS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR YOU? BY THE WAY, YOU GOT EXPELLED FROM YOUR SCHOOL.
WHAT???
DON'T WORRY, I TALKED TO THE PRINCIPAL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL. I KNOW HIM. YOU'LL START GOING THERE TOMORROW!




DAMMIT HOW DO I SOLVE THIS? OF COURSE I GET A TEST ON MY FIRST DAY!
HEY TAKE THIS...
OUR GENIUS MATHEMATICIAN JUST PASSED HER A NOTE
NOW SHE'S GONNA GET IT
HERE'S THE SOLUTION TO THE THIRD PROBLEM, I NOTICED THAT YOU WERE HAVING TROUBLE WITH IT... P.S MY NAME'S DMITRY
ELENA VASILYEVNA, DMITRY'S BEING A LITTLE UNFAIR HE PASSED A CHEAT SHEET TO THE NEW GIRL!
IS THAT TRUE DMITRY?
DAMMIT! "FIREBALL"!
NO NO HOW COULD I ELENA VASILYEVNA
MMM... YOU PROBABLY IMAGINED IT SERGEI NIKA SOLVED THE PROBLEM DIFFERENTLY.
NOW THAT'S SOMETHING! SOLVING THE THIRD PROBLEM TWO DIFFERENT WAYS!... COOL DUDE!

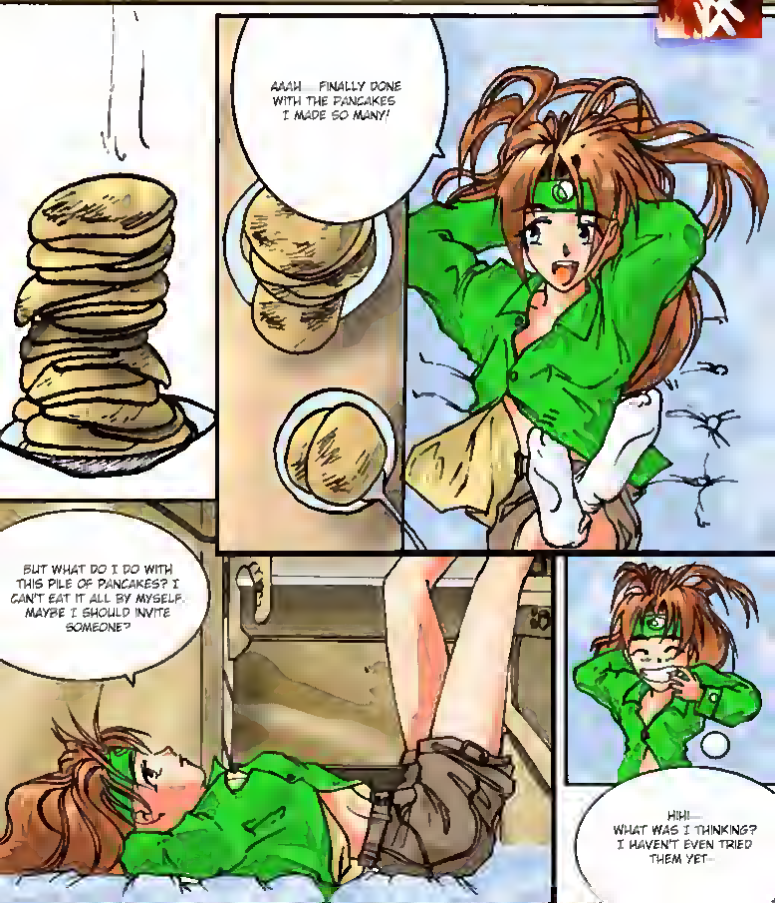
THANKS FOR HELPING ME ON THE TEST...
KA!
NAH DON'T MENTION IT I SOLVED IT TWO DIFFERENT WAYS OUT OF CURIOSITY AND I DIDN'T WANT THE SECOND SOLUTION TO GO TO WASTE I HOPED OUR KAMCHADALS WOULDN'T NOTICE
WAIT WHO?
THE KAMCHADALS THE GUYS WHO SIT IN THE LAST ROW "KAMCHATKA".*
BUT WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ME? WHAT DID I EVER DO TO THEM?
THEY KNOW THAT YOUR FOLKS ARE CLOSE WITH THE PRINCIPAL... AND THEY'RE WORRIED THAT YOU'LL RAT THEM OUT IT WOULDN'T BE UNJUSTIFIED, REALLY...
...THEY'VE GOT THE BAD HABIT OF KNOCKING AROUND PEOPLE THEY DON'T LIKE THEY'RE TAILING US BY THE WAY SO WE SHOULD START RUNNING OR THIS WON'T END WELL FOR US
DON'T BOTHER...
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE HABIT DIMON, WE DO HAVE THAT... WE'RE GONNA MAKE YOUR LIKE OUR BAD SIDE
CAUSE ANYONE WOULD LIKE OUR GOOD SIDE I SAW EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART?

*TN: IT'S AWKWART TO TRANSLATE IT LITERALLY BUT IT SOUNDS A BIT WEIRD IN RUSSIAN TOO. KAMCHATKA IS A LARGE BUT REMOTE AND VERY SPARSELY POPULATED PENINSULA IN FAR EASTERN RUSSIA, HENCE THE LAST-ROW ANALOGY. THE KAMCHADALS ARE AN INFLAMMOUS POPULATION OF THE REGION.

HOLD...
YOU SHOULD FIGHT YOUR SAD HABITS, GUYS... I'LL HELP
THEN NIKA, AS USUAL, LAID OUT BOTH KAMCHADALS WITH ONE PUNCH BUT, AS THIS IS BORING AND SAMEY I DIDN'T BOTHER DRAWING IT.
NIKA, YOUR STYLE OF COMMUNICATION REMINDS ME OF AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE... DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS KINDA CRUEL?
YE..H, I THINK I TRIED A BIT TOO HARD THIS TIME. THEY DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD...
GIMME
Def
Owww
BY THE WAY, I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT - HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO HIDE THE NOTE SO QUICKLY?
TURNED IT TO ASH WITH MY GAZE - HIH!

HUKA

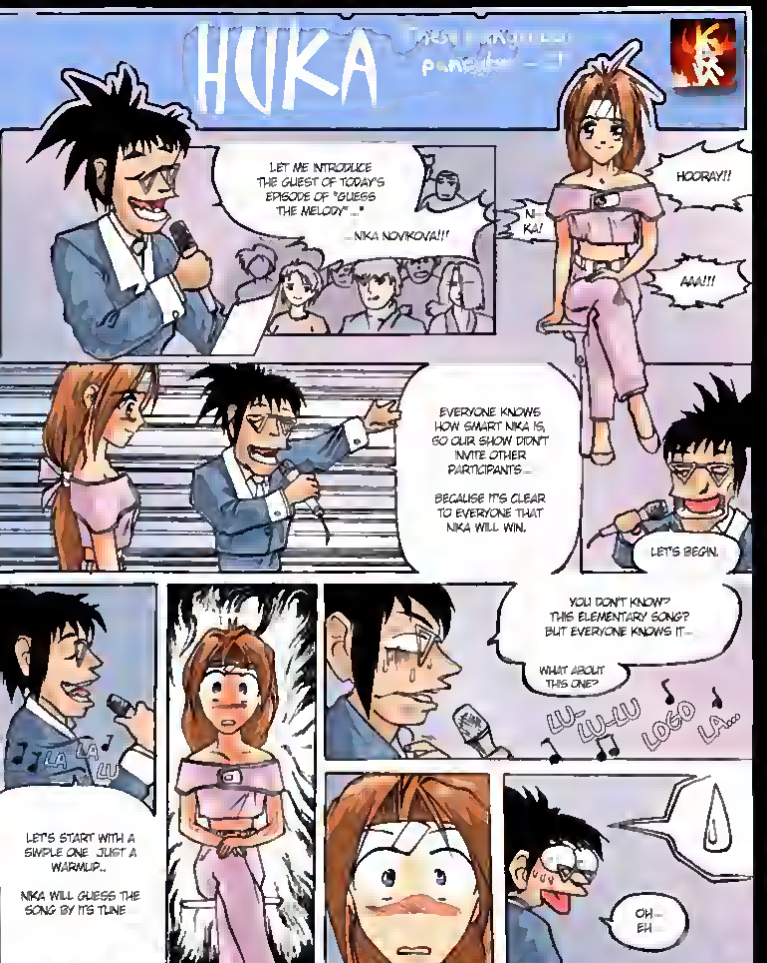
"These dangerous pancakes..."


AAAH... FINALLY DONE WITH THE PANCAKES I MADE SO MANY!
BUT WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS PILE OF PANCAKES? I CAN'T EAT IT ALL BY MYSELF. MAYBE I SHOULD INVITE SOMEONE?
HUH! WHAT WAS I THINKING? I HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED THEM YET

!!
SHINK!
Oh... Eh...
WHEN WILL I STOP LEAVING SPATULAS ALL OVER THE KITCHEN?
FLOP!
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH!
MMM... TURNED OUT PRETTY GOOD... NOPE, NOT SHARING WITH ANYONE. GONNA EAT IT ALL MYSELF... ALL OF IT!!!

Nom! Nom!
Nya?
NO NO PUMKA! DON'T DO THAT DON'T...!
AAAA...
DUMB CAT, I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THAT....
Mea?

GONNA HAVE TO SCRAPE THAT OFF THE CEILING NOW... EEH, WHERE'S MY BIG MOP?
!!
Flop-
HA! HA! HA!
Eh..
TOO SALTY, HUH- APOLOGIZE RIGHT NOW!


HUKA
LET ME INTRODUCE THE GUEST OF TODAY'S EPISODE OF "GUESS THE MELODY"...
...NIKA NOVIKOVA!!!
N-KA!
HOORAY!!
AAA!!!
EVERYONE KNOWS HOW SMART NIKA IS, SO OUR SHOW DIDN'T INVITE OTHER PARTICIPANTS...
BECAUSE IT'S CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT NIKA WILL WIN.
LET'S BEGIN.
LET'S START WITH A SIMPLE ONE. JUST A WARM-UP...
NIKA WILL GUESS THE SONG BY ITS TUNE
YOU DON'T KNOW? THIS ELEMENTARY SONG? BUT EVERYONE KNOWS IT...
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
LU-LU-LU LOGO LA...
OH-EH...

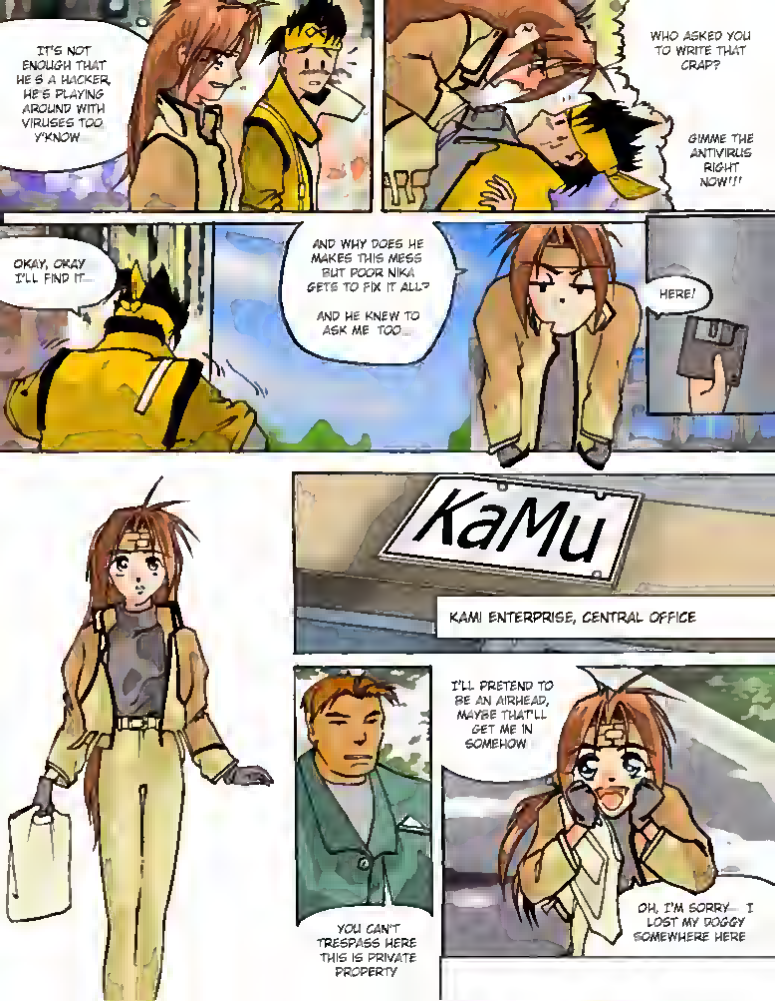
"TAK "GUESS THE MELODY" ("Угадай мелодию") IS A POPULAR RUSSIAN GAME SHOW. THE FORMAT IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.

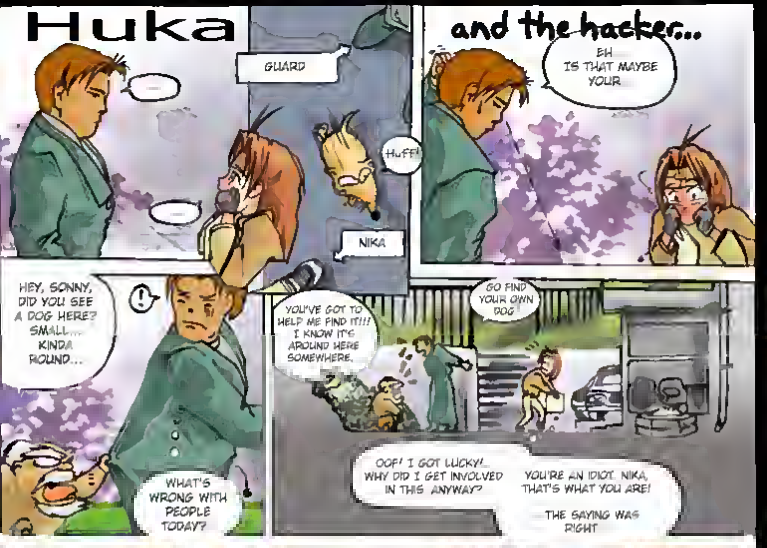
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT. THE TITLE HAS SEVEN LETTERS. THE FIRST IS "L." THE LAST IS "I"
NIKA, JUST SAY SOMETHING. YOU'LL BE THE END OF THIS SHOW. (THIS IS HORRIBLE. I WOULDN'T HAVE INVITED HER IF I'D KNOWN)
THE SECOND IS "A." SECOND TO LAST IS "SH."
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT
IDIOT!
NIKA'S STUPID!
MAYBE IT'S "ZAIKA"?
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER HEAD—
OOF. IT WAS JUST A NIGHTMARE— TO HAVE A DREAM LIKE THAT—
THAT'S IT! NO MORE PANCAKES BEFORE BED

Huka

and the hacker

HEY DIMA WAIT UP!
COME ON, WAIT!..
WHAT DO YOU WANT NIKA? I'M IN A BAD MOOD...
LEAVE ME ALONE!
I WROTE A VERY TROUBLESOME VIRUS NOT TOO LONG AGO. YOU KNOW PLAYING AROUND ON MY COMPUTER, BUT THE DISK I PUT IT ON DISAPPEARED. A FRIEND OF MINE FROM A CERTAIN COMPANY ACCIDENTALLY TOOK IT
OH GOD. ANOTHER HACKER I HAVE TO DEAL WITH. RED, YOU WOULD'VE LIKED THIS ONE...
YEAH, I NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN BROODING ALL DAY
WHAT HAPPENED?
FINE. GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU. I KNOW YOU, YOU'D NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE
AND THIS VIRUS INSERTED INTO THIS COMPANY'S NETWORK, COULD CAUSE A LOT OF DAMAGE. SOMETHING TERRIBLE COULD HAPPEN. WHO CAN PREDICT THE BEHAVIOR OF THAT CLEVER VIRUS OF MINE (WROTE IT MYSELF!)?
AND NOW I'M SITTING HERE WITH NO IDEA WHAT TO DO. IT CAME OUT WAY TOO STRONG. I'M NOT EVEN HAPPY I WROTE IT ANYMORE. AND YOU CAN ONLY NEUTRALIZE IT WITH MY ANTIVIRUS. BUT I CAN'T JUST WALTZ INTO MY FRIEND'S COMPANY. AND I CAN'T TELL THEM THEY'VE GOT A VIRUS EITHER...


IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT HE'S A HACKER, HE'S PLAYING AROUND WITH VIRUSES TOO, Y'KNOW...
WHO ASKED YOU TO WRITE THAT CRAP?
GIMME THE ANTIVIRUS RIGHT NOW!!!
OKAY, OKAY I'LL FIND IT...
AND WHY DOES HE MAKES THIS MESS BUT POOR NIKA GETS TO FIX IT ALL?
AND HE KNEW TO ASK ME TOO...
HERE!
KaMu
KAMI ENTERPRISE, CENTRAL OFFICE
I'LL PRETEND TO BE AN AIRHEAD, MAYBE THAT'LL GET ME IN SOMEHOW
YOU CAN'T TRESPASS HERE THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY
OH, I'M SORRY... I LOST MY DOGGY SOMEWHERE HERE


Huka
and the hacker...
GUARD
HUFF!
NIKA
EH... IS THAT MAYBE YOUR...
HEY, SONNY, DID YOU SEE A DOG HERE? SMALL... KINDA ROUND...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH PEOPLE TODAY?
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME FIND IT!!! I KNOW IT'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
GO FIND YOUR OWN DOG
OOF! I GOT LUCKY!.. WHY DID I GET INVOLVED IN THIS ANYWAY?
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, NIKA THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
THE SAYING WAS RIGHT

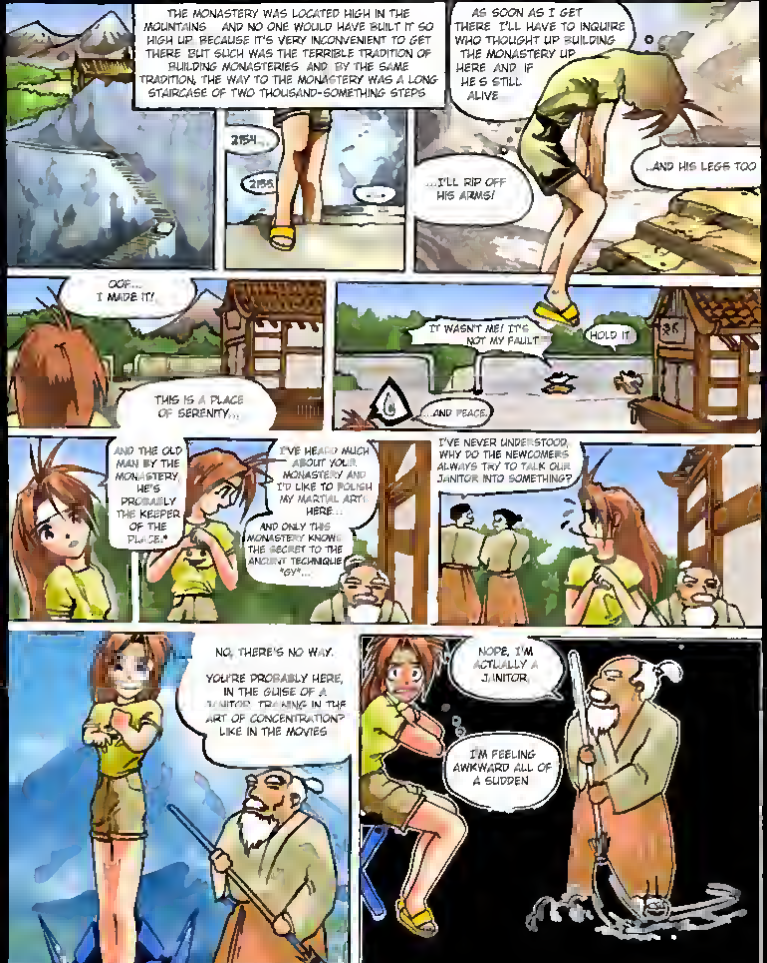
HO HO... IT'S A BIT SCARY... NIKA, YOU'VE GOT TO PUT ON A MORE CONFIDENT FACE...
OH... EH... WHO'S THAT?..
HAVEN'T SEEN HER BEFORE...
WHY'S SHE WALKING AROUND HERE LIKE THAT?
MAYBE A NEW CLEANING

THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED NEXT WERE SO HORRIFYING THAT THE HUMBLE AUTHOR DIDN'T DARE DEPICT THEM

AFTERWARDS, NIKA DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO HIDE AND SNEAK AROUND, FOR SHE NO LONGER CARED

305
?
...
WHO'S SHE? HOW DID SHE GET IN HERE?
IT?!
HEY, YOUNG WOMAN, WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME OVER HERE...
I'LL FIND YOU, YOU LOUSY ANIMAL! I'LL DIG YOU OUT, I KNOW YOU'RE SOMEWHERE HERE! SOMEWHERE CLOSE...
NIKA
WELL... I'M WAITING! YOU MAY NOW KNEEL IN GRATITUDE FOR MY SERVICE. I SAVED YOUR COMPANY
HE HE HE
FINALLY. I HAVE ACCESS TO THE COMPANY'S DOCUMENTS THANKS TO THE SPYWARE ON THAT DISK
WAIT UP! ARE YOU SAYING YOU JUST USED ME??? IS THAT IT?!!
IT HURTS!!!
NIKA, NIKA, WAIT. DON'T
WHAT WOULD I WAIT FOR? YOU STOP!
AAH! NIKA, YOU'RE SO SCARY
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!! THAT'S IT
WAIT. DON'T BEAT ME. I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!!!

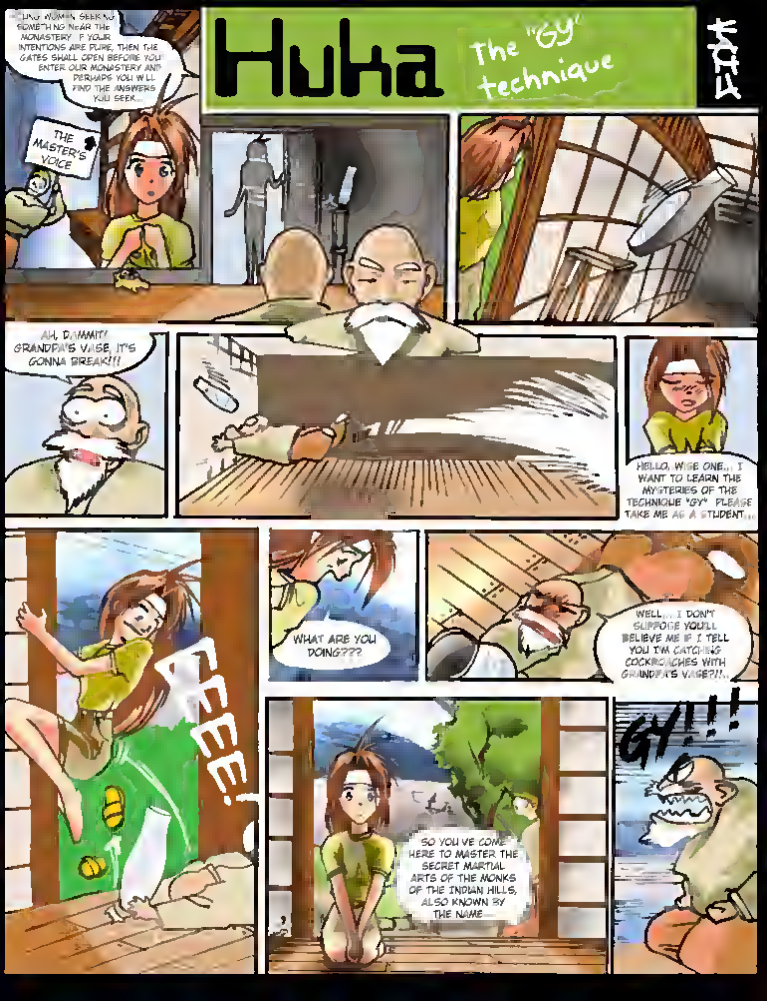
YAY! DI, YOU HEAR? I WON A TRIP TO TURKEY. SO LUCKY I'LL FINALLY GET TO REST LIKE A REAL PERSON
FOR SOME REASON I DON'T SEE THE WORD "TURKEY" IN THE DESTINATION...
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN, DI? THEY TOLD ME IT'S A TRIP TO TURKEY
ISN'T IT CLEAR THAT SHE'S CRAZY?...
HE-HE... I WAS JOKING, JOKING... YOU DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FUNNY, NIKA? (AND SHE LOOKED ME IN THE EYE AND LIED THAT SHE HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR)...
WHOOPS! EMPTY SPACE... WELP. IT HAPPENS. IT HAPPENS. I MISCALCULATED, CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW!
(*T/N: I TRANSLITERATED THE NAME...BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY FRESERVE THE PRONUNCIATION. BASICALLY IN RUSSIAN IT'S PHONETICALLY UNFRIENDLY IN THE EXTREME...IT'S LIKE CALLING IT "KH" OR SOMETHING.)
PAYING NO MORE ATTENTION TO DI'S WARNINGS, NIKA QUICKLY PACKED. BECAUSE THIS WAS ONLY A SHORT TRIP, SHE LIMITED HERSELF TO THE RARE NECESSITIES...
OF COURSE IT'S A SHAME I HAD TO LEAVE THE CAT ALONE AT HOME. BUT I CAN'T DRAG HER WITH ME — SHE'D SCARE PEOPLE.
SHE KNOWS WHERE THE CAT FOOD IS, SO... OH! I DIDN'T TEACH HER HOW TO OPEN IT!
MEH. IT'S ALL RIGHT, SHE'LL FIGURE IT OUT SOMEHOW
cat food
ON ARRIVAL
DAMMIT!
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT TURKEY!
AT THE "MONASTERY HILLS" HOTEL
MOUNTAINS EVERYWHERE...
MOUNTAINS...
OH! I JUST REMEMBERED! THERE'S A MONASTERY CLOSE BY WHERE THEY STUDY THE MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUE "GY"!

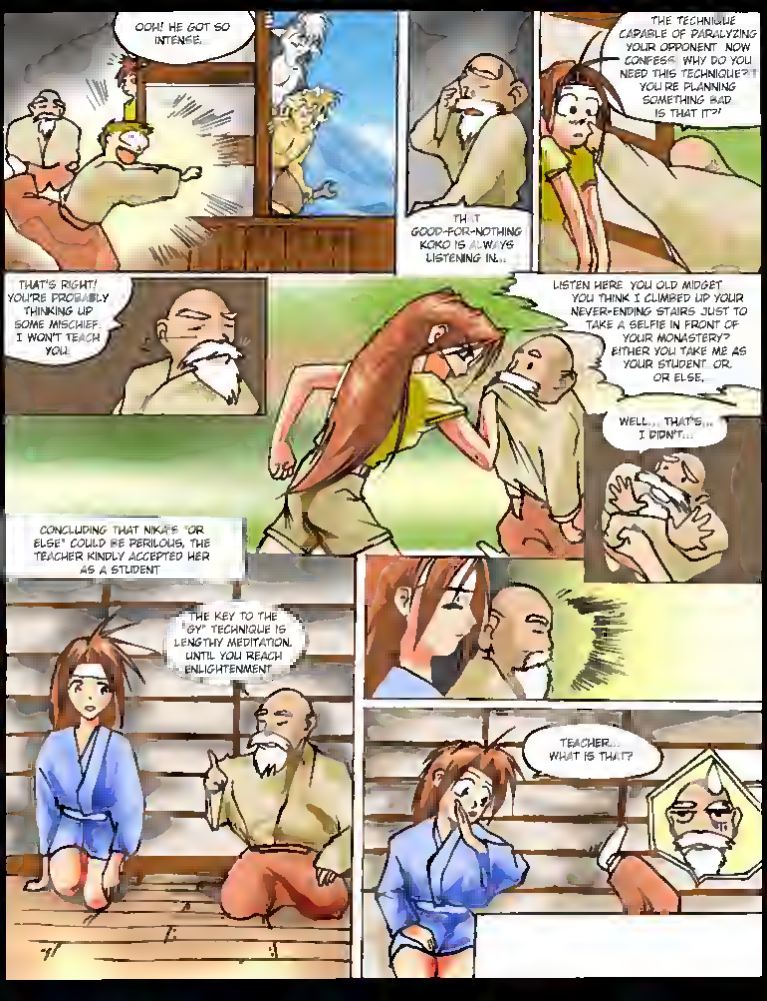

THE MONASTERY WAS LOCATED HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS... AND NO ONE WOULD HAVE BUILT IT SO HIGH UP, BECAUSE IT'S VERY INCONVENIENT TO GET THERE. BUT SUCH WAS THE TERRIBLE TRADITION OF BUILDING MONASTERIES. AND BY THE SAME TRADITION, THE WAY TO THE MONASTERY WAS A LONG STAIRCASE OF TWO THOUSAND-SOMETHING STEPS
2154...
2155...
AS SOON AS I GET THERE, I'LL HAVE TO INQUIRE WHO THOUGHT UP BUILDING THE MONASTERY UP HERE. AND IF HE'S STILL ALIVE...
...I'LL RIP OFF HIS ARMS!
...AND HIS LEGS TOO
OOF... I MADE IT!
THIS IS A PLACE OF SERENITY...
IT WASN'T ME! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
HOLD IT
...AND PEACE.
AND THE OLD MAN BY THE MONASTERY, HE'S PROBABLY THE KEEPER OF THE PLACE.*
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOUR MONASTERY AND I'D LIKE TO POLISH MY MARTIAL ART HERE...
AND ONLY THIS MONASTERY KNOWS THE SECRET TO THE ANCIENT TECHNIQUE OF "V"...
I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD, WHY DO THE NEWCOMERS ALWAYS TRY TO TALK OUR JANITOR INTO SOMETHING?
NO, THERE'S NO WAY. YOU'RE PROBABLY HERE, IN THE GUISE OF A JANITOR, TRAINING IN THE ART OF CONCENTRATION? LIKE IN THE MOVIES
NOPE, I'M ACTUALLY A JANITOR.
I'M FEELING AWKWARD ALL OF A SUDDEN

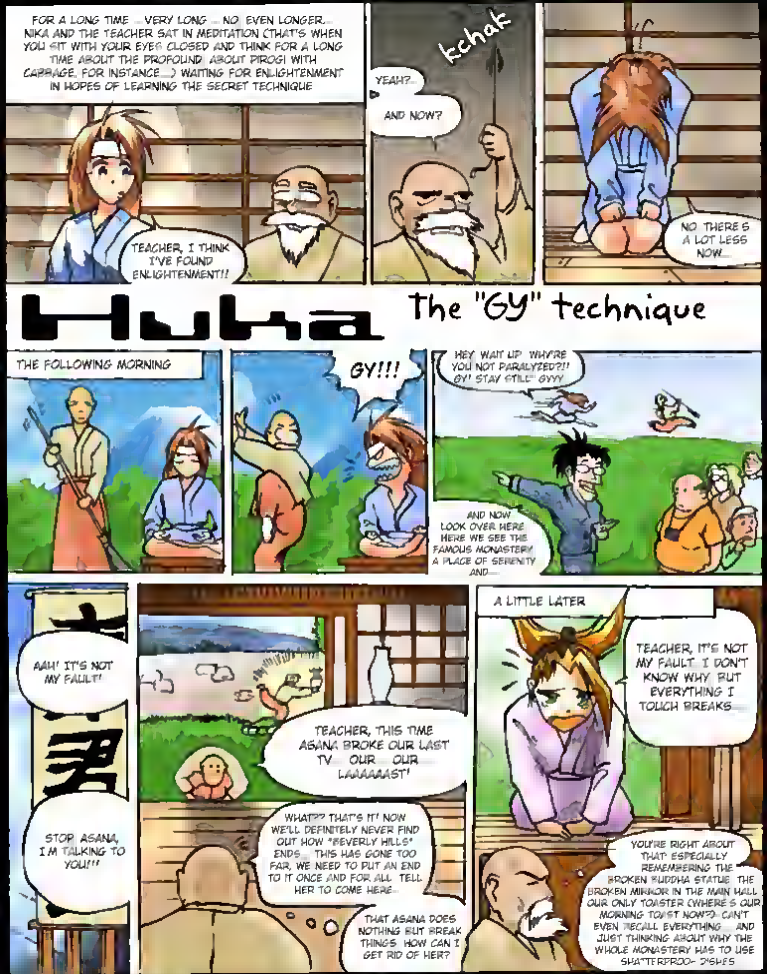
*TAK: THIS IS A MORE COMMON WORD IN RUSSIAN THAN IN ENGLISH. LITERAL TRANSLATION IS "PRICKY, IN... I GUESS FUR. "KEEPER" BECAUSE IT SOUNDS BETTER.

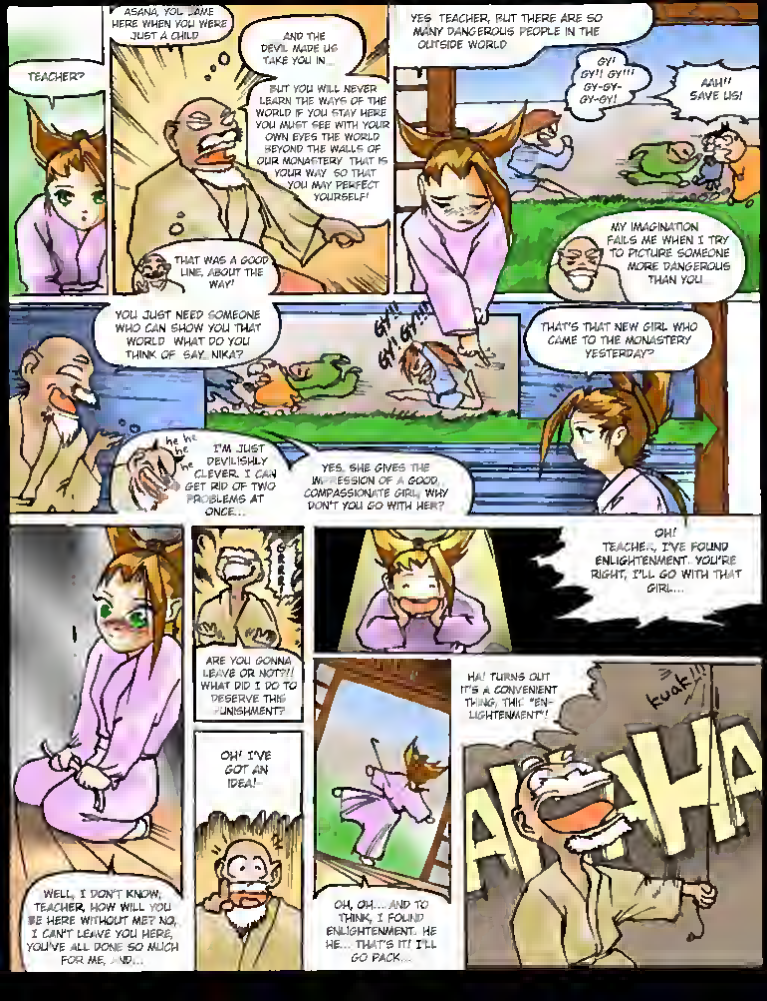
Huka

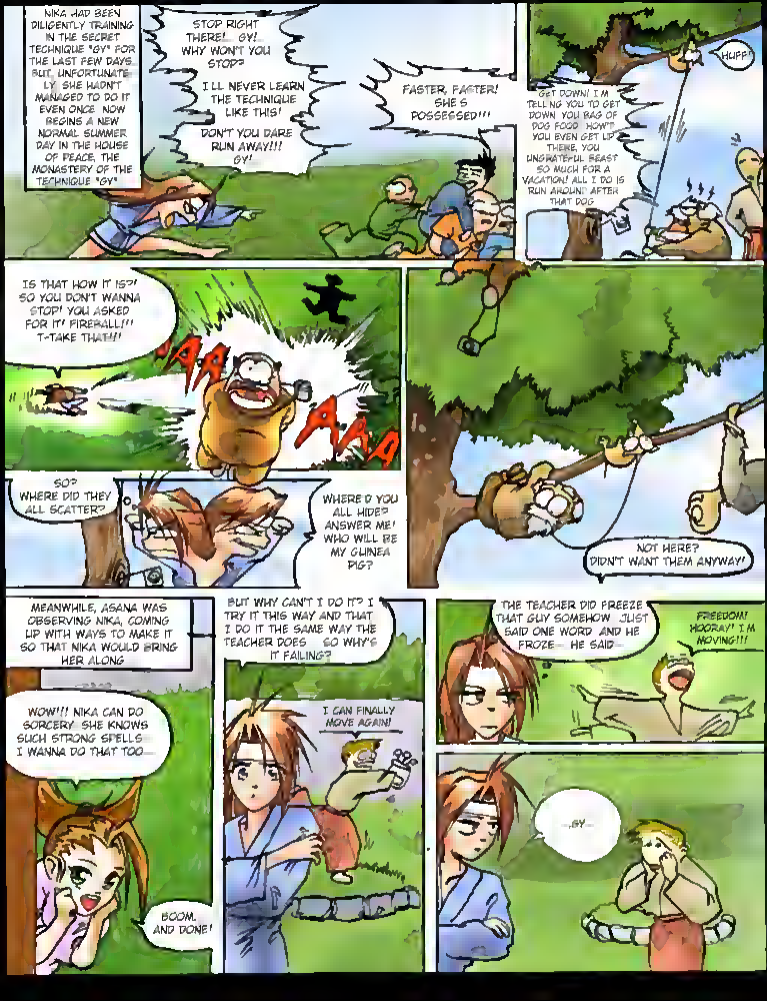
The "GY" technique

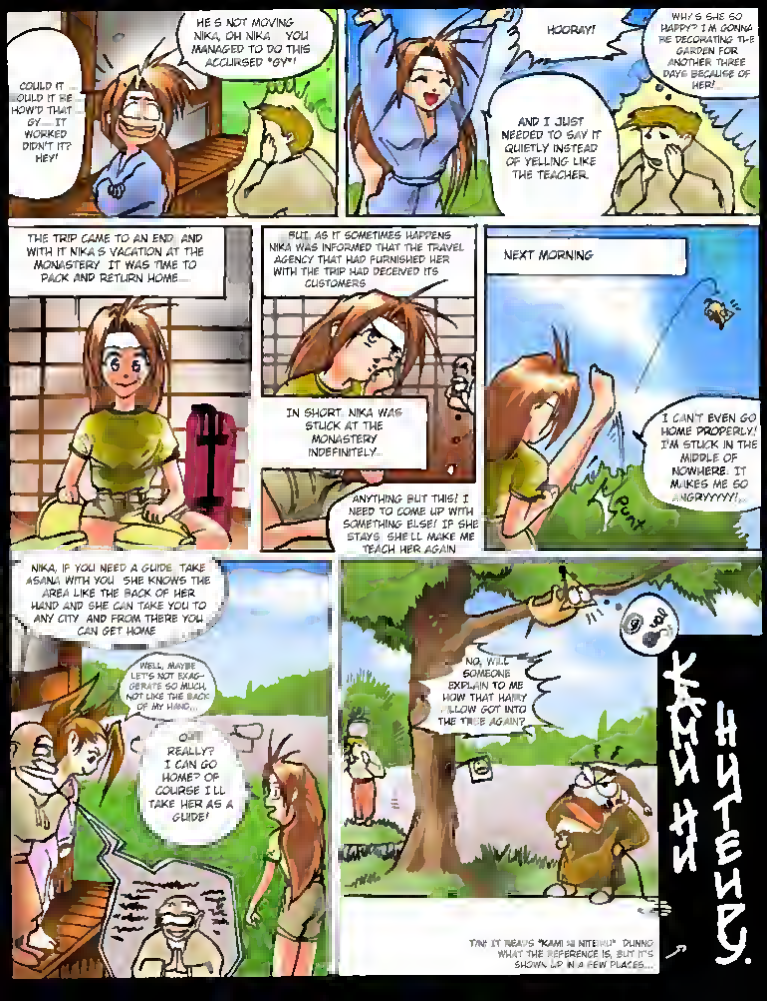

"LOST WOMAN, SEEK NO SOMETH NG NEAR THE MONASTERY. F YOUR INTENTIONS ARE PURE, THEN THE GATES SHALL OPEN BEFORE YOU. ENTER OUR MONASTERY AND PERHAPS YOU W LL FIND THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK...
THE MASTER'S VOICE
AH, DAMMIT! GRANDPA'S VASE. IT'S GONNA BREAK!!!
HELLO, WISE ONE... I WANT TO LEARN THE MYSTERIES OF THE TECHNIQUE "GY". PLEASE TAKE ME AS A STUDENT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING???
WELL... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL BELIEVE ME IF I TELL YOU I'M CATCHING COCKROACHES WITH GRANDPA'S VASE?!!
EEEE!
SO YOU'VE COME HERE TO MASTER THE SECRET MARTIAL ARTS OF THE MONKS OF THE INDIAN HILLS, ALSO KNOWN BY THE NAME...
GY!!!


OOH! HE GOT SO INTENSE.
THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING KOKO IS ALWAYS LISTENING IN...
THE TECHNIQUE CAPABLE OF PARALYZING YOUR OPPONENT. NOW CONFESS! WHY DO YOU NEED THIS TECHNIQUE?! YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING BAD IS THAT IT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING UP SOME MISCHIEF. I WON'T TEACH YOU.
LISTEN HERE, YOU OLD MIDGET. YOU THINK I CLIMBED UP YOUR NEVER-ENDING STAIRS JUST TO TAKE A SELFIE IN FRONT OF YOUR MONASTERY? EITHER YOU TAKE ME AS YOUR STUDENT, OR, OR ELSE.
WELL... THAT'S... I DIDN'T...
CONCLUDING THAT NIKA'S "OR ELSE" COULD BE PERILOUS, THE TEACHER KINDLY ACCEPTED HER AS A STUDENT
THE KEY TO THE "SY" TECHNIQUE IS LENGTHY MEDITATION. UNTIL YOU REACH ENLIGHTENMENT.
TEACHER... WHAT IS THAT?


FOR A LONG TIME ... VERY LONG ... NO, EVEN LONGER... NIKA AND THE TEACHER SAT IN MEDITATION (THAT'S WHEN YOU SIT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED AND THINK FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT THE PROFOUND, ABOUT PIROGI WITH CABBAGE, FOR INSTANCE...) WAITING FOR ENLIGHTENMENT IN HOPES OF LEARNING THE SECRET TECHNIQUE
TEACHER, I THINK I'VE FOUND ENLIGHTENMENT!!!
tchak
YEAH?
AND NOW?
NO, THERE'S A LOT LESS NOW...
Huka
The "GY" technique
THE FOLLOWING MORNING
GY!!!
HEY, WAIT UP! WHY'RE YOU NOT PARALYZED?!! GY! STAY STILL! GYYY
AND NOW, LOOK OVER HERE. HERE WE SEE THE FAMOUS MONASTERY. A PLACE OF SERENITY AND—
AAH! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
STOP, ASANA, I'M TALKING TO YOU!!!
TEACHER, THIS TIME ASANA BROKE OUR LAST TV... OUR... OUR LAAAAAAST!
WHAT?? THAT'S IT! NOW WE'LL DEFINITELY NEVER FIND OUT HOW "BEVERLY HILLS" ENDS... THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR. WE NEED TO PUT AN END TO IT ONCE AND FOR ALL. TELL HER TO COME HERE...
THAT ASANA DOES NOTHING BUT BREAK THINGS. HOW CAN I GET RID OF HER?
A LITTLE LATER
TEACHER, IT'S NOT MY FAULT. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT EVERYTHING I TOUCH BREAKS...
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. ESPECIALLY REMEMBERING THE BROKEN BUDHA STATUE, THE BROKEN MIRROR IN THE MAIN HALL, OUR ONLY TOASTER (WHERE'S OUR MORNING TOAST NOW?). CAN'T EVEN RECALL EVERYTHING... AND JUST THINKING ABOUT WHY THE WHOLE MONASTERY HAS TO USE SHATTERPROOF DISHES


ASANA, YOU CAME HERE WHEN YOU WERE JUST A CHILD
AND THE DEVIL MADE US TAKE YOU IN...
TEACHER?
BUT YOU WILL NEVER LEARN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD IF YOU STAY HERE YOU MUST SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES THE WORLD BEYOND THE WALLS OF OUR MONASTERY. THAT IS YOUR WAY. SO THAT YOU MAY PERFECT YOURSELF!
THAT WAS A GOOD LINE, ABOUT THE WAY!
YES, TEACHER, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY DANGEROUS PEOPLE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD
GY! GY!! GY!!! GY-GY-GY-GY!
AAH!! SAVE US!
MY IMAGINATION FAILS ME WHEN I TRY TO PICTURE SOMEONE MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU.
YOU JUST NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN SHOW YOU THAT WORLD. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF, SAY... NIKA?
GY!! GY! GY!!!
THAT'S THAT NEW GIRL WHO CAME TO THE MONASTERY YESTERDAY?
he he he
I'M JUST DEVILISHLY CLEVER. I CAN GET RID OF TWO PROBLEMS AT ONCE...
YES, SHE GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF A GOOD, COMPASSIONATE GIRL. WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH HER?
OH! TEACHER, I'VE FOUND ENLIGHTENMENT. YOU'RE RIGHT, I'LL GO WITH THAT GIRL...
ARE YOU GONNA LEAVE OR NOT?! WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW, TEACHER. HOW WILL YOU BE HERE WITHOUT ME? NO, I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE, YOU'VE ALL DONE SO MUCH FOR ME, AND...
OH! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
OH, OH... AND TO THINK, I FOUND ENLIGHTENMENT. HE HE... THAT'S IT! I'LL GO BACK...
HA! TURNS OUT IT'S A CONVENIENT THING, THIS "ENLIGHTENMENT"!
kuak!!!
HA HA

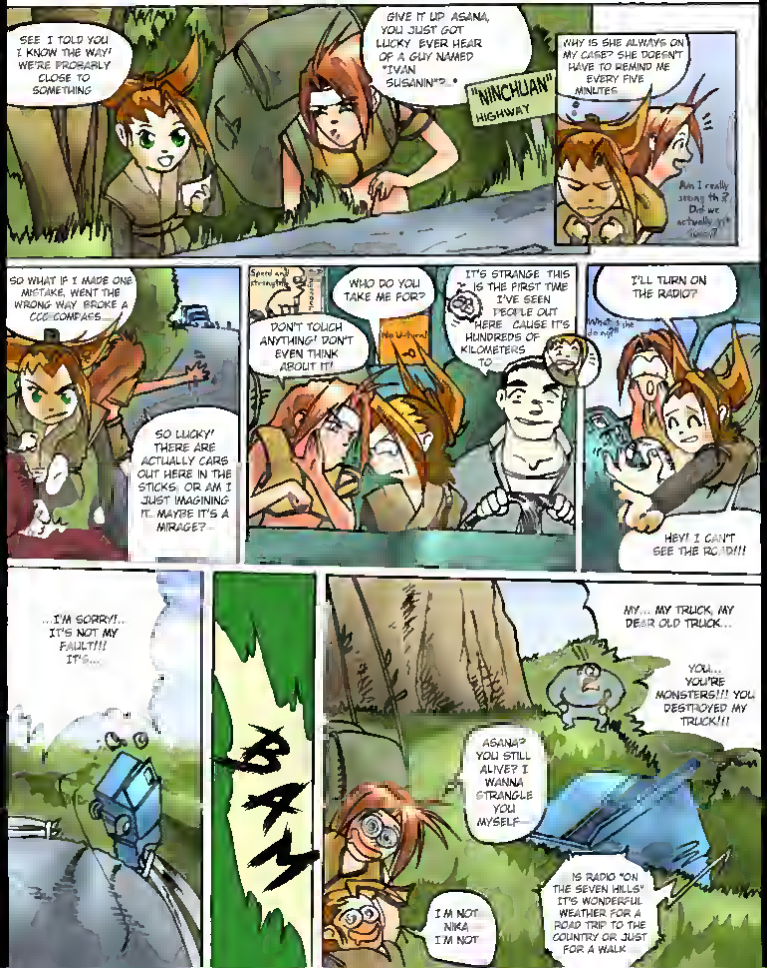

NIKA HAD BEEN DILIGENTLY TRAINING IN THE SECRET TECHNIQUE "GY" FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, SHE HADN'T MANAGED TO DO IT EVEN ONCE. NOW BEGINS A NEW NORMAL SUMMER DAY IN THE HOUSE OF PEACE, THE MONASTERY OF THE TECHNIQUE "GY"
STOP RIGHT THERE! GY! WHY WON'T YOU STOP?
I'LL NEVER LEARN THE TECHNIQUE LIKE THIS!
DON'T YOU DARE RUN AWAY!!! GY!
FASTER, FASTER! SHE'S POSSESSED!!!
HUFF!
GET DOWN! I'M TELLING YOU TO GET DOWN, YOU BAG OF DOG FOOD! HOW?! YOU EVEN GET UP THERE, YOU UNGRATEFUL BEAST SO MUCH FOR A VACATION! ALL I DO IS RUN AROUND AFTER THAT DOG
IS THAT HOW IT IS?! SO YOU DON'T WANNA STOP! YOU ASKED FOR IT! FIREBALL!!! T-TAKE THAT!!
AAA
AAA
SO? WHERE DID THEY ALL SCATTER?
WHERE'D YOU ALL HIDE? ANSWER ME! WHO WILL BE MY GUINEA PIG?
NOT HERE? DIDN'T WANT THEM ANYWAY!
MEANWHILE, ASANA WAS OBSERVING NIKA, COMING UP WITH WAYS TO MAKE IT SO THAT NIKA WOULD BRING HER ALONG
WOW!!! NIKA CAN DO SORCERY. SHE KNOWS SUCH STRONG SPELLS... I WANNA DO THAT TOO...
BOOM. AND DONE!
BUT WHY CAN'T I DO IT? I TRY IT THIS WAY AND THAT. I DO IT THE SAME WAY THE TEACHER DOES... SO WHY'S IT FAILING?
I CAN FINALLY MOVE AGAIN!
THE TEACHER DID FREEZE. THAT GUY SOMEHOW... JUST SAID ONE WORD... AND HE FROZE— HE SAID—
FREEDOM! HOORAY! I'M MOVING!!!
...GY...


HE'S NOT MOVING NIKA, OH NIKA... YOU MANAGED TO DO THIS ACCURSED "6Y"!
COULD IT... COULD IT BE HOW'D THAT... 6Y... IT WORKED DIDN'T IT? HEY!
HOORAY!
WHY'S SHE SO HAPPY? I'M GOING TO BE DECORATING THE GARDEN FOR ANOTHER THREE DAYS BECAUSE OF HER!...
AND I JUST NEEDED TO SAY IT QUIETLY INSTEAD OF YELLING LIKE THE TEACHER.
THE TRIP CAME TO AN END, AND WITH IT NIKA'S VACATION AT THE MONASTERY. IT WAS TIME TO PACK AND RETURN HOME...
BUT, AS IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS NIKA WAS INFORMED THAT THE TRAVEL AGENCY THAT HAD FURNISHED HER WITH THE TRIP HAD DECEIVED ITS CUSTOMERS.
IN SHORT, NIKA WAS STUCK AT THE MONASTERY INDEFINITELY...
ANYTHING BUT THIS! I NEED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE! IF SHE STAYS, SHE'LL MAKE ME TEACH HER AGAIN!
NEXT MORNING
I CAN'T EVEN GO HOME PROPERLY! I'M STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. IT MAKES ME SO ANGRYYYYY!...
PUNX
NIKA, IF YOU NEED A GUIDE, TAKE ASANA WITH YOU. SHE KNOWS THE AREA LIKE THE BACK OF HER HAND AND SHE CAN TAKE YOU TO ANY CITY. AND FROM THERE YOU CAN GET HOME.
WELL, MAYBE LET'S NOT EXAGGERATE SO MUCH, NOT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND...
OH? REALLY? I CAN GO HOME? OF COURSE I'LL TAKE HER AS A GUIDE!
NO, WILL SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO ME HOW THAT HAPPY I'LLOW GOT INTO THE TREE AGAIN?
KAMI NI NITEMU.
TAKE IT MEANS "KAMI NI NITE MU". DUNNO WHAT THE REFERENCE IS, BUT IT'S SHOWN UP IN A FEW PLACES...

BECAUSE OF THE TRAVEL AGENCY'S SHODDY SERVICE, NIKA WAS FORCED TO SET OFF ON FOOT WITH ASANA, A GIRL FROM THE MONASTERY, AS HER GUIDE SOMEWHERE IN THE DENSE FOREST...
UH-HUH
WELL? WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT? BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE WE NOW?
AND HOW LONG TILL WE REACH PEOPLE?
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND, ASANA. I WOULD'VE GOTTEN LOST A LONG TIME AGO...
Ow! I think I'm stuck
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE COMPASS. I TURN IT EVERY WHICH WAY. IT'S ALL NORTH. MAYBE I SHOULD TUNE IT?
AH!!! IT BROKE!
WAIT, WHAT?!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!!
KLINK
GIMME!
WELP, HAPPENS TO EVERYONE HE-HE— SO IT BROKE
YOU!..
YOU!..
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN TO ANYONE!!!
THIS IS THE THIRD ONE!!!
HOW CAN YOU BREAK THREE COMPASSES IN ONE DAY?!!
WELL... IT'S NOT COMPLICATED...
AND I WAS WONDERING WHY THEY GAVE US THREE COMPASSES—
THE NEXT DAY
THE COMPASS BROKE BY ITSELF...
STILL MISSING: PLANE "ANNUSHKA" CRASHED IN THE PRE-JUNGLE
I THINK WE'RE DEEP IN THE FOREST NOW
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
In the Vaiyo Place — 2017

HEY! YOU! YOU TWO!
DID MY DOG RUN THROUGH HERE? KINDA ROUND SMALL DUMB
WHY AM I WASTING MY VACATION ON THIS?! WHEN I FIND YOU, I'LL MAKE YOU INTO A HOT DOG
EVERYTHING'S FINE NIKA, I THINK I KNOW WHERE WE ARE. LET'S HEAD THAT WAY.
WELL, IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG AGAIN, YOU ONLY HAVE YOURSELF TO
AGANA, HEY, AGANA, DIDN'T THEY WRITE ABOUT THAT PLANE IN THE PAPER, THAT IT FELL IN THE JUNGLE AND THEY STILL CAN'T FIND IT?
NIKA, IT'S NOT MY FAULT. I WAS FOLLOWING THE MAP... NIKA... NIKA?..

T/N: IVAN SUSANIN IS THE SUBJECT OF A WELL-KNOWN RUSSIAN STORY FROM THE 17TH CENTURY. SUSANIN MISLED A SQUAD OF POLISH TROOPS LOOKING FOR THE NEW TSAR, SAVING THE TSAR AND PRESUMABLY DYING FOR IT.

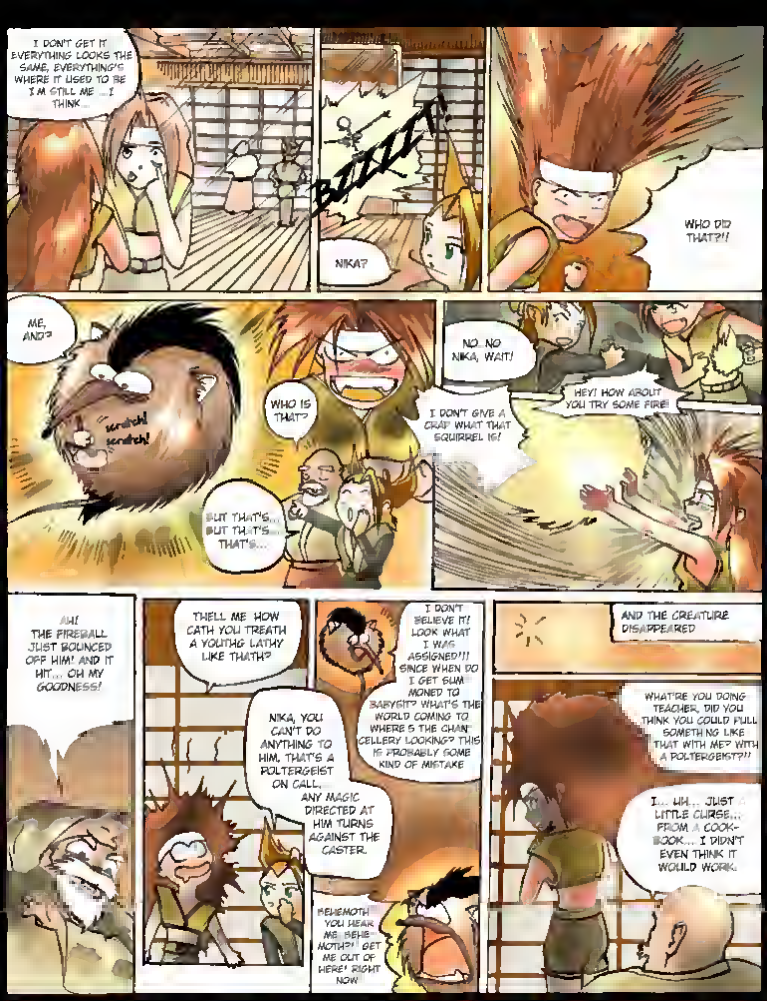

SEE. I TOLD YOU I KNOW THE WAY! WE'RE PROBABLY CLOSE TO SOMETHING
GIVE IT UP ASANA, YOU JUST GOT LUCKY. EVER HEAR OF A GUY NAMED "IVAN SUSANIN"?..
"NINCHUAN" HIGHWAY
WHY IS SHE ALWAYS ON MY CASE? SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO REMIND ME EVERY FIVE MINUTES...
Am I really wrong th? Did we actually get lost?
SO WHAT IF I MADE ONE MISTAKE, WENT THE WRONG WAY, BROKE A COMPASS...
SO LUCKY! THERE ARE ACTUALLY CARS OUT HERE IN THE STICKS. OR AM I JUST IMAGINING IT.. MAYBE IT'S A MIRAGE?
Speed and driving style
Registration
WHO DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
No U-turns
IT'S STRANGE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN PEOPLE OUT HERE. CAUSE IT'S HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS TO...
I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO?
What's the program?
HEY! I CAN'T SEE THE ROAD!!!
...I'M SORRY!.. IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!! IT'S...
BAM
MY... MY TRUCK, MY DEAR OLD TRUCK...
YOU... YOU'RE MONSTERS!!! YOU DESTROYED MY TRUCK!!!
ASANA? YOU STILL ALIVE? I WANNA STRANGLE YOU MYSELF
I'M NOT NIKA. I'M NOT
IS RADIO "ON THE SEVEN HILLS" IT'S WONDERFUL WEATHER FOR A ROAD TRIP TO THE COUNTRY OR JUST FOR A WALK

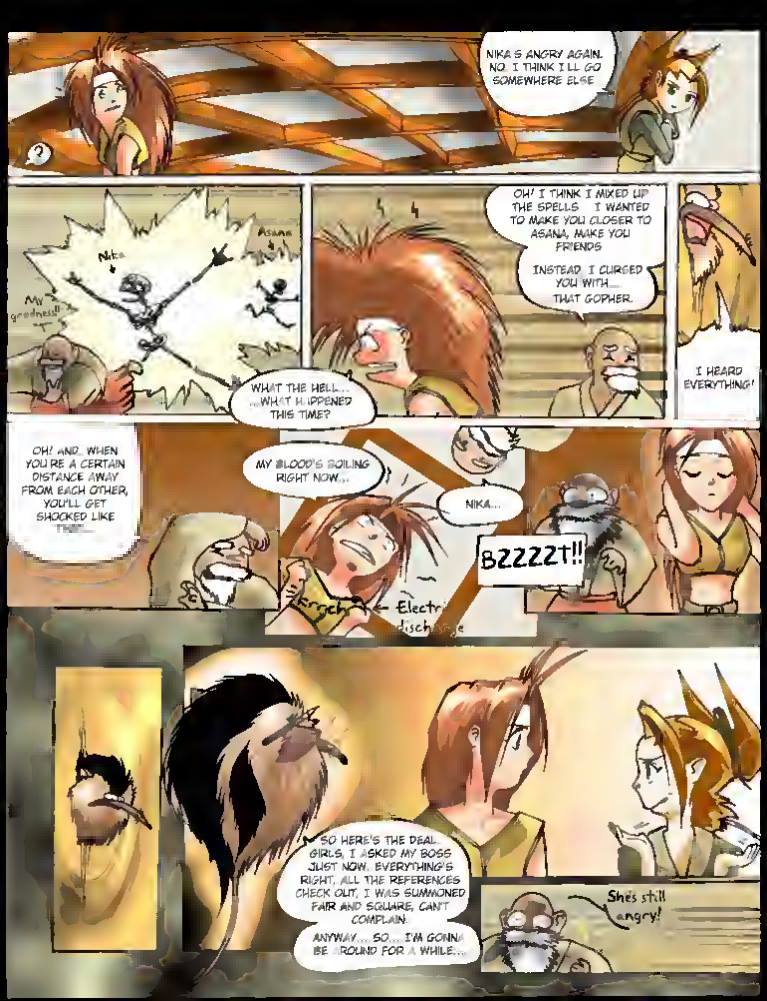
YA: THE FIRST PANEL STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT YOUR HUMBLE SCANLATOR HAS NOTHING BETTER TO DO

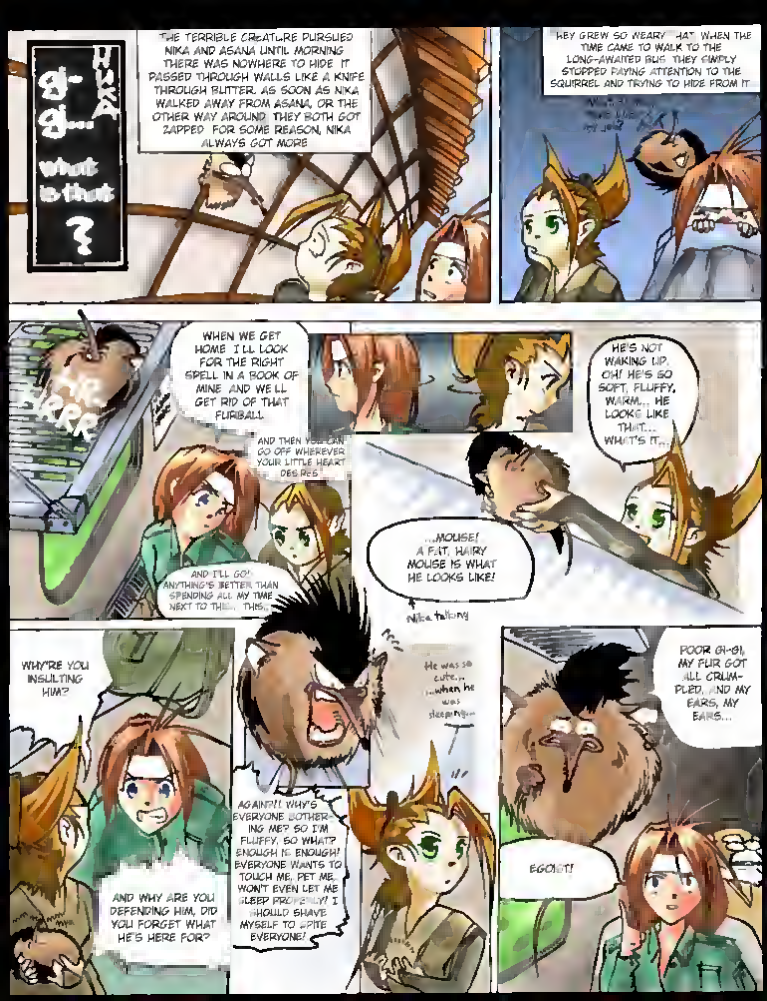
THE DRIVER ASSISTED OUR TRAVELERS IN COVERING A LARGE DISTANCE IN A SHORT TIME (HE RAN WELL, NO QUESTION THERE)
WE THUMBED A RIDE, IT MOVED IT WAS TAKING US TO A CITY WHAT ELSE COULD YOU EVER WANT? BUT NOOO SEE SHE WANTED THE RADIO.
NIKA, LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
WE CAN USE THIS TO GET THERE FASTER, AND WE WON'T HAVE TO WA
AKR
NIKA... KH... NOT MY FAULT... NIKA... KH... IT WAS ALL THAT ROOT... KH...
THAT'S NOT A GIRL, THAT'S A PUNISHMENT FROM ON HIGH.
IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, WE MANAGE TO FIND PEOPLE, I'LL HAVE TO WRITE "HOW TO SURVIVE ALONE WITH ASANA".
BUT SOON...
NIKA, THAT'S DEFINITELY A HOUSE
SHE'LL SOONER FIND CANNIBALS THAN...
WH..T DID WE REALLY FIND PEOPLE? I DON'T BELIEVE MY EYES...
I TOLD YOU I'D LEAD YOU OUT
THIS WALL REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING...
WHAT'S OVER THERE, NIKA?
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT RID OF OUR "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION".
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE BUDDHA STATUE, THE MIRRORS, THE TOASTERS
Poke! Poke!
TEACHER, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE

"Huka" "The Curse"
TELL EVERYONE, TO HELL WITH THE TOAST. JUST SAVE THE TOASTER
SO, UH, WE KINDA CAME BACK. THE COMPASSES YOU GAVE US THOUGH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S ALL RIGHT WE WEREN'T USING THEM ANYWAY
How does he know what happened to them?
I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS. THE GOOD IS THAT YOUR BUS IS ONLY LATE AND IT'LL BE HERE TOMORROW MORNING
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT YOU CAN'T SPEND THE NIGHT UNDER THE MONASTERY'S ROOF DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES
We got a new one over the other door...
GOOD THING YOU'RE BOTH LEAVING TOMORROW, OR...
Back of your hand, you say? Following the man you say?.. Not your fault you say?.
BOTH OF US?!! HUH?!!
KLUITZ?!!
TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH THIS... THI...
S...DIST?!!
NE-VER !!!
FINE! IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TOGETHER, THEN IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL UPON THE MAGIC OF THE MONASTERY OF GY
Magic, huh? Go on...
It's horrible!!! What if he turns us into a frog?
BUT OF COURSE I THOUGHT THE BUS THE AGENCY

ASSUMA ASSANUM AGANO!
ASSUMA AGGONUM AGANO!
WATASHI NO TEKI! BAKU NO! WATASHI NO INU! INU NO! AGARA-KRUNO!!!*
* Caution! Don't try this strong spell on any of your loved ones. It may have undesirable consequences. Although its been modified anyway and does not contain its full force
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT WAS THAT SPELL HE USED? AND WHY? NOTHING HAPPENED DID IT?
AAAAH! I DON'T WANNA BE A FROG!!!
FROG? (OH NO!) I SHOULD FIND A MIRROR SOMEWHERE IF HE TURNED SWEET BEAUTIFUL NIKA (OH NO! OH NO!) —
...I SAW ONE IN THE MAIN HALL.
NOOO! ANYTHING BUT OUR NEW MIRROR!
AAAAH! AND THEY LIVE IN THE SWAMP, TOO IT'S NASTY THERE!!!
LEMME GO! IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME, I'M GONNA TURN EVERYONE INTO FROGS!.. WHERE'S THE MIRROR?!!


I DON'T GET IT. EVERYTHING LOOKS THE SAME, EVERYTHING'S WHERE IT USED TO BE. I AM STILL ME ... I THINK...
BLLLL
NIKA?
WHO DID THAT?!
ME, AND?
scratch! scratch!
WHO IS THAT?
BUT THAT'S... BUT THAT'S... THAT'S...
NO. NO NIKA, WAIT!
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP WHAT THAT SQUIRREL IS!
HEY! HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SOME FIRE!
AW! THE FIREBALL JUST BOUNCED OFF HIM! AND IT HIT... OH MY GOODNESS!
THELL ME HOW CATH YOU TREATH A YOUTHG LATHY LIKE THATH?
NIKA, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM. THAT'S A POLTERGEIST ON CALL... ANY MAGIC DIRECTED AT HIM TURNS AGAINST THE CASTER.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! LOOK WHAT I WAS ASSIGNED!!! SINCE WHEN DO I GET SUM MONED TO BABYSIT? WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO WHERE S THE CHAN CELLERY LOOKING? THIS IS PROBABLY SOME KIND OF MISTAKE
BEHEMOTH! YOU HEAR ME, BEHE MOTH?! GET ME OUT OF HERE! RIGHT NOW!
AND THE CREATURE DISAPPEARED
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TEACHER, DID YOU THINK YOU COULD FULL SOMETH NG LIKE THAT WITH ME? WITH A POLTERGEIST?!!
I... UH... JUST LITTLE CURSE... FROM A COOK-BOOK... I DIDN'T EVEN THINK IT WOULD WORK.


NIKA'S ANGRY AGAIN. NO. I THINK I'LL GO SOMEWHERE ELSE
Nika
Asana
My greatness!!
WHAT THE HELL... ...WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME?
OH! I THINK I MIXED UP THE SPELLS. I WANTED TO MAKE YOU CLOSER TO ASANA, MAKE YOU FRIENDS
INSTEAD, I CURSED YOU WITH... THAT GOPHER.
I HEARD EVERYTHING!
OH! AND... WHEN YOU'RE A CERTAIN DISTANCE AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, YOU'LL GET SHOCKED LIKE THIS!
MY BLOOD'S BOILING RIGHT NOW...
NIKA...
BZZZZT!!
Kzzzch
Electric discharge
SO HERE'S THE DEAL, GIRLS. I ASKED MY BOSS JUST NOW. EVERYTHING'S RIGHT, ALL THE REFERENCES CHECK OUT, I WAS SUMMONED FAIR AND SQUARE, CAN'T COMPLAIN.
ANYWAY... SO... I'M GONNA BE AROUND FOR A WHILE...
She's still angry!


g-g... what is that?
THE TERRIBLE CREATURE PURSUED NIKA AND ASANA UNTIL MORNING THERE WAS NOWHERE TO HIDE. IT PASSED THROUGH WALLS LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER. AS SOON AS NIKA WALKED AWAY FROM ASANA, OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND, THEY BOTH GOT ZAPPED. FOR SOME REASON, NIKA ALWAYS GOT MORE
THEY GREW SO WEARY THAT, WHEN THE TIME CAME TO WALK TO THE LONG-AWAITED BUS, THEY SIMPLY STOPPED PAYING ATTENTION TO THE SQUIRREL AND TRYING TO HIDE FROM IT
WHEN WE GET HOME I'LL LOOK FOR THE RIGHT SPELL IN A BOOK OF MINE AND WE'LL GET RID OF THAT FURBALL
AND THEN YOU CAN GO OFF WHEREVER YOUR LITTLE HEART DESIRES
AND I'LL GO! ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN SPENDING ALL MY TIME NEXT TO THIS... THIS...
HE'S NOT WAKING UP. OH! HE'S SO SOFT, FLUFFY, WARM... HE LOOKS LIKE THAT... WHAT'S IT...
...MOUSE! A FAT, HAIRY MOUSE IS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!
Nika talking
WHY'RE YOU INSULTING HIM?
AND WHY ARE YOU DEFENDING HIM, DID YOU FORGET WHAT HE'S HERE FOR?
He was so cute... ...when he was sleeping...
AGAIN?! WHY'S EVERYONE BOTHERING ME? SO I'M FLUFFY, SO WHAT? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! EVERYONE WANTS TO TOUCH ME, PET ME, WON'T EVEN LET ME SLEEP PROPERLY! I SHOULD SHAVE MYSELF TO SPITE EVERYONE!
POOR GI-GI, MY FUR GOT ALL CRUMPLED, AND MY EARS, MY EARS...
EGOIST!

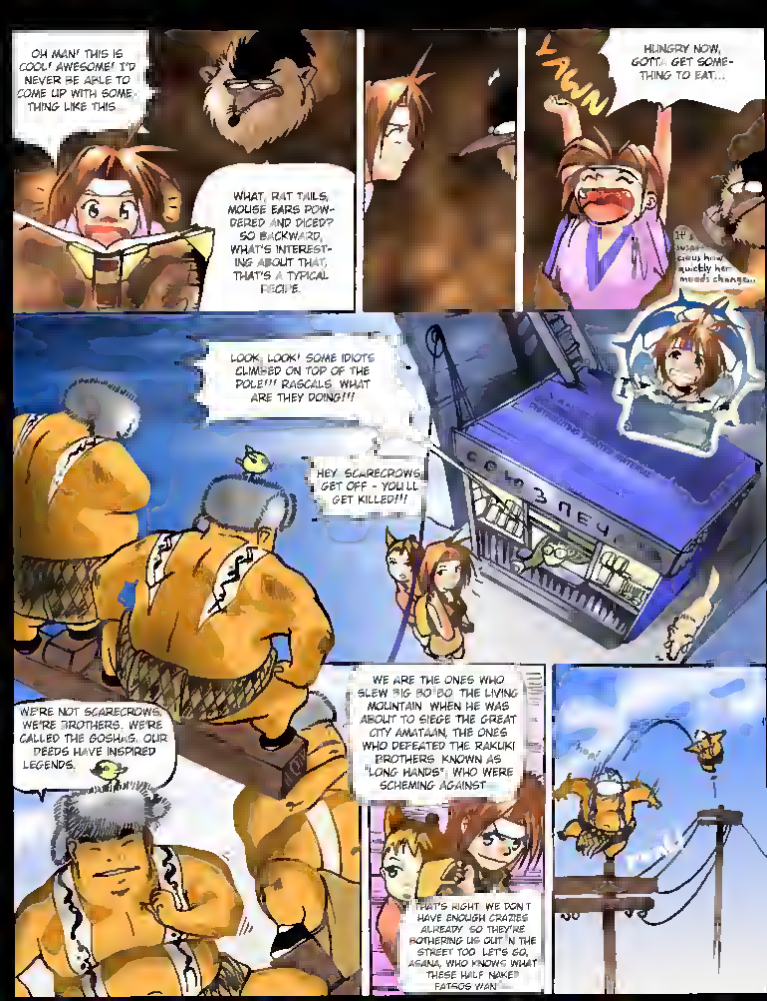
YOU'RE GI-GIT. THAT'S A FUNNY NAME.
I SHOT THAT BEHEMOTH (THAT'S MY BOSS) SENDING ME TO EARTH! SOON, HE'S NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO GIVE ME ANY ORDERS!
I got some arrows against. They're pushing the mountain!
OF COURSE. THEY'RE START-ING AGAIN... I'M SO TIRED OF ALL THIS COOING... THAT'S IT! THIS IS MY LAST ASSIGNMENT. I'M QUITTING THE CHAN-CELLERY!
SOON?!! SO YOU'RE NOT WITH US FOR LONG?
WELL, YEAH. 100 YEARS... 150, MAYBE... YOU'RE LUCKY I'M THE ONE YOU GOT ASSIGNED.
WHAT'S WRONG, GI-GIT?
MEANWHILE NEAR THE MONASTERY OF "SY"
I LOVE BUSINESS TRIPS TO EARTH...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT NASTY CHAN-CELLERY HERE...
HUFF HUFF! I CAN SMELL THE BOOK, IT'S SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY... SOON... SOON, IT'LL BE OURS!
Aha! As for putting a hole in the monastery's roof... it's just another day for them, really... -author

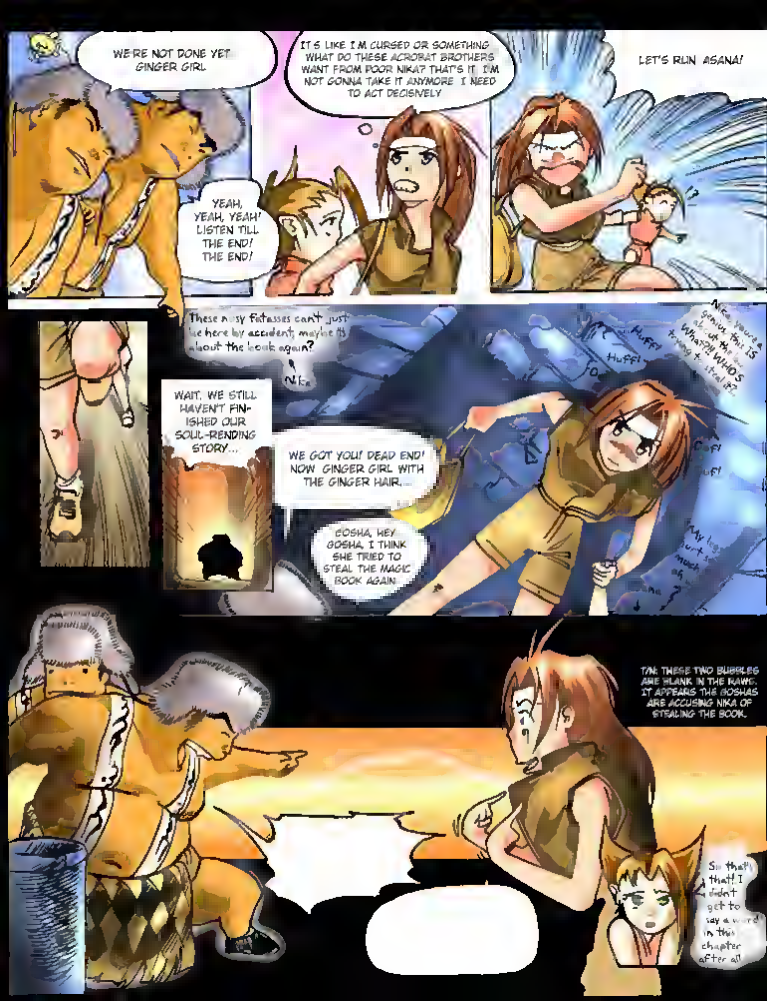
HAVING GOTTEN HOME ALMOST WITHOUT INCIDENT, OUR TOURISTS SETTLED IN AT NIKA'S PLACE
HE'S SLEEPING? HE FELL ASLEEP, RIGHT? AT LEAST THIS FURBALL DOES SLEEP SOMETIMES
NIKA, YOU'RE OBSESSED
OH, I'D GIVE HIM WHAT FOR. HE HE HEEE...
HRRR
HRHRRH
WHAT DID YOU SAY ASANA, I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU. YOU WERE PROBABLY THANKING ME FOR TAKING YOU WITH ME??
IS THAT RIGHT??!!
NIKA. OH
I'LL DIG UP SOME THING STRONGER, THEN THE FURBALL'S GONNA GET IT...
She's really let this place go
NIKA! YOU'RE COMPLETELY BEHIND THE TIMES! LOOK, WHAT IS THIS THING? I HAVE TO CHANGE INTO CITY CLOTHES. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING FASHIONABLE? YOU KNOW, THERE'S THIS THING CALLED "FASHION" GOT FOR?!! SOMEONE SEES ME WEARING THIS
IN THE OTHER ROOM, ASANA WAS SHAMELESSLY DIGGING THROUGH NIKA'S WARDROBE
AND UH... DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING SMALLER? AROUND THE WAIST
WAIT?! WHY'RE GIVING ORDERS AROUND HERE? YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR LONG. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS CRITTER FROM THE COOKBOOK YOU'D STILL BE SITTING THERE IN THE MONASTERY. AND STOP DIGGING AROUND IN MY
YEAH? REMEMBER WHY HE GOT IT ON US? 'CAUSE IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF ME...
SMASH!
...MY TUFF...

The horror!
THAT WAS... MY DEAR OLD HOURGLASS
AND NOW IT'S BROKEN! YOU BROKE IT!
ASANA, YOU'RE A MONSTER!!!
I'M THE MONSTER?!
OH, NIKA... THAT SPARKLE IN YOUR EYES.
YOU'D BETTER GET AWAY FROM ME, ASANA, DON'T TEMPT YOUR FATE!
YES, NIKA, OF COURSE, I'M SORRY!!!
AND SO THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR OWN BUSINESS ONCE AGAIN. NIKA SEARCHED FOR A SPELL, ASANA FOR CLOTHES. NOT FOR LONG, THOUGH.
NIKA, STOP!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THESE OVERALLS? I FOUND THEM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DRAWER.
NI-NI-, YOU'RE KILLING ME... I LOST THOSE, LIKE, FIVE YEARS AGO.

NIKA WAS STILL LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DISPEL THE CURSE WHEN DI STOPPED BY...
HEY, NIKA, ARE YOU BACK ALREADY?
WHY AM I ASKING, THOUGH?
SO, NIKA, MAYBE TRY THE BALL LIGHTNING ON ME AGAIN? I LIKED IT!
WHAT A TENACIOUS GOPHER!
WHAT'S SHE TRYING TO ERADICATE HERE: THE COCKROACHES OR THE NEIGHBORS?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT. IS IT SO HARD TO REMEMBER? I'M DI, DI!
OH, IT'S YOU, DI. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME IN. THAT'S NOT ALL: YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT'S PLAYING WITH MY CAT...
WHO'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT... HUH?!
MEEEH...
HEY, NIKA, WHAT ARE ALL THESE FURRY CRITTERS YOU'RE KEEPING?

NIKA, WHO IS THIS?
NIKA, WHO IS THIS?
DI, THIS IS ASANA. ASANA, THIS IS DI. I SUGGEST BEING CAREFUL AROUND HER. EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHES BREAKS
AND THAT HAIRBALL'S AN UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCE OF A CURSE FROM A COOKROOK. STILL CAN'T GET RID OF HIM. GU-GU
Hairball!?!!
AND THIS IS DI. HE'S A HACKER. ONLY A HACKER IN NAME, THOUGH
BAM
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE SAID THAT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, WIMP!!! LOOK AT YOURSELF FIRST!!!
VERY CLOSE BY
WE'RE CLOSE, VERY CLOSE! THE BOOK IS CLOSE!..
IT'S A BIT COLD, THOUGH... DON'T YOU THINK SO, HUH, GOSHA?
WHAT'S THAT?..
WHO ARE THESE GUYS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED OUR NIKA FROM THE VERY TEMPLE OF "SY"? WHAT DO THEY WANT FROM HER? AND, ABOVE ALL, WHERE ARE THEY FROM? KEEP READING THIS CHAPTER, "THE CURSE" FOR MORE ABOUT THESE STRANGERS WHO CALL EACH OTHER "GOSHA"


OH MAN! THIS IS COOL! AWESOME! I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
WHAT, RAT TAILS, MOUSE EARS POWDERED AND DICED? SO BACKWARD. WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THAT, THAT'S A TYPICAL RECIPE.
LAWN
HUNGRY NOW, GOTTA GET SOMETHING TO EAT...
IF I WASN'T SO CURIOUS HOW QUICKLY HER MOODS CHANGE...
LOOK, LOOK! SOME IDIOTS CLIMBED ON TOP OF THE POLE!!! RASCALS. WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!!
HEY, SCARECROWS GET OFF - YOU'LL GET KILLED!!!
WE'RE NOT SCARECROWS. WE'RE BROTHERS. WE'RE CALLED THE GOSHIS. OUR DEEDS HAVE INSPIRED LEGENDS.
WE ARE THE ONES WHO SLEW BIG BO!BO THE LIVING MOUNTAIN WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SIEGE THE GREAT CITY AMATAAN. THE ONES WHO DEFEATED THE RAKUKI BROTHERS, KNOWN AS "LONG HANDS", WHO WERE SCHEMING AGAINST
THAT'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CRAZIES ALREADY SO THEY'RE BOTHERING US OUT IN THE STREET TOO. LET'S GO, ASANA, WHO KNOWS WHAT THESE HALF NAKED FATSOS WANT.


WE'RE NOT DONE YET GINGER GIRL
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH! LISTEN TILL THE END! THE END!
IT'S LIKE I'M CURSED OR SOMETHING WHAT DO THESE ACROBAT BROTHERS WANT FROM POOR NIKA? THAT'S IT. I'M NOT GONNA TAKE IT ANYMORE I NEED TO ACT DECISIVELY
LET'S RUN ASANA!
These nosy fatasses can't just be here by accident, maybe it's about the book again?
WAIT. WE STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED OUR SOUL-RENDING STORY...
WE GOT YOU! DEAD END! NOW GINGER GIRL WITH THE GINGER HAIR...
GOSHA, HEY GOSHA, I THINK SHE TRIED TO STEAL THE MAGIC BOOK AGAIN
Nice, you're a genius, Pa! It's what?!! WHO'S fucking fatass
HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!
TIK! THESE TWO BUBBLES ARE BLANK IN THE MANGA. IT APPEARS THE GOSHAS ARE ACCUSING NIKA OF STEALING THE BOOK.
So, that's that! I didn't get to say a word in this chapter after all!

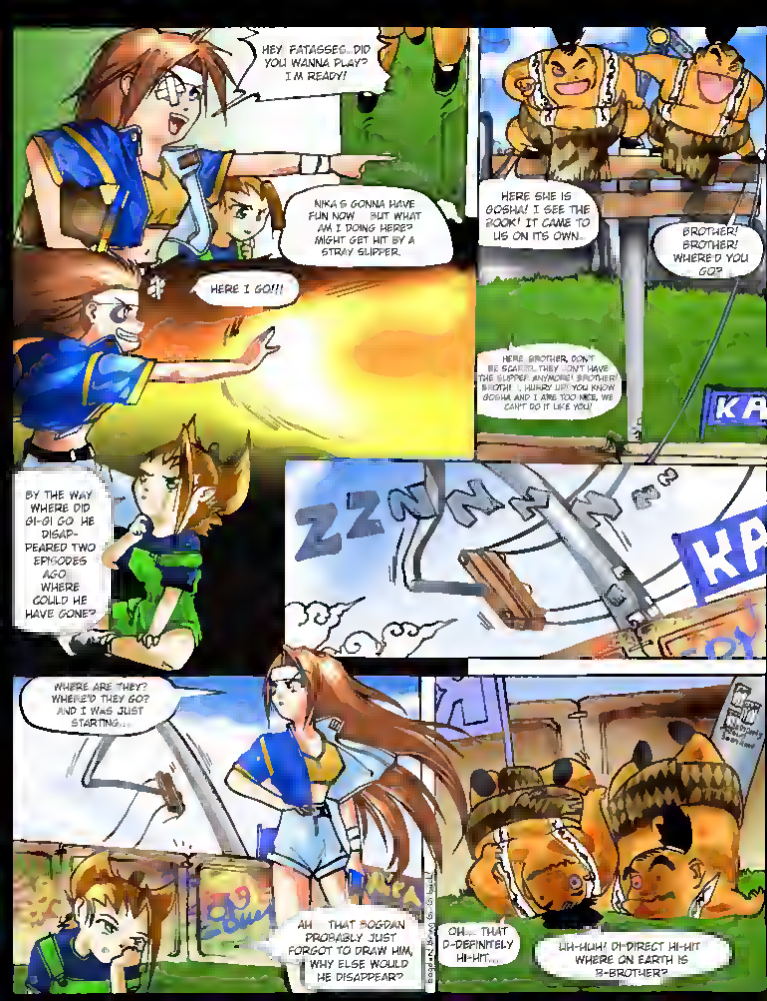
HEY, LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT! FIRST OFF, MY NAME IS...
AH! SHE WANTS TO TELL US HER NAME, SO WE WILL GIVE HER OURS! GOSHAS MYTHOLOGICAL HEROES, TAMERS OF DRAGONS WE ARE THE VERY...
GOSHA, DIDN'T WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES EARLIER?
IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER. NOW OF COURSE, SHE'LL START MAKING EXCUSES TELLING US SHE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING
CONFESS, YOU POISONOUS SNAKE, WHERE'S THE BOOK!!!
OI, YOU, ARE YOU LISTENING?!! PAY ATTENTION! I WANNA SAY THAT...
I'M SORRY, WHAT?
OH, GOSHA, I HOPE THAT WASN'T TOO RUDE. HUH? IT JUST CAME OUT BY ITSELF...
HEY, GOSHA, DID YOU EAT OUR PILL TODAY? AND AGAIN WITHOUT ASKING?
FLOP!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME ON? MY WRATH WILL BE TERRIBLE – AND NOW YOU'LL BOTH PAY FOR THE "SNAKE" WHICH ONE SHOULD I TAKE FIRST GOSHA OR HIS BROTHER GOSHA?
SO WHAT, ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

WE'RE NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING HE IS, THOUGH!
SAY HELLO! THIS IS OUR OLDER BROTHER. YES, YES WE'RE TOO NICE. SO YOU'LL SURRENDER THE BOOK.
...TO HIM. THAT'S FOR SURE!
NIKA, MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM THE BOOK?... GIVE IT UP, OKAY?...

AMAZING! I FORGET THE BOOK AT HOME FOR ONCE AND THESE "GOSHAS" APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE AND START BREAKING EVERYTHING IN BROAD DAY LIGHT!
HEY, BIG GUY, I'LL SHOW YOU A TRICK! HERE CATCH!
GET UP, ASAN!..
NIKA, I CAN'T FLY AROUND LIKE THAT... I'M GONNA THROW UP.
DON'T YOU DARE! TIME TO RUN BEFORE ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE...
YES!!! THAT'S OUR BROTHER!!!
GO BROTHER, SHOW THEM, BROTHER!
WHEN YOU WIN, I'LL GET YOU A CHOCOLATE BAR!
HE STOPPED MY SPELL!!! WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
THAT'S IT. SEEMS LIKE IT'S TIME TO STOP PLAYING AROUND

WE'RE WITH YOU!
LIKE THAT! LIKE THAT BROTHER! YES YES GIVE IT TO THEM!!!
Oh no! My slipper!
RRRUM
OH, I DON'T LIKE WHAT HE'S DOING OVER THERE... HURRY UP, ASANA! I CAN'T HANDLE HIM WITHOUT THE BOOK.
NIKA NIKA NIKA... WAIT!!! THAT'S!.. THAT'S!..
AAH! HE ALREADY FINISHED THE SPELL!!
?
NIKAAA
GOOD LANDING- IT'S ALL RIGHT ASANA, IT'S NOT THE WORST THING THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED WE MIGHT'VE SPLATTERED ON THE GROUND
Doof!
Ow!
LANDING??? SAYS WHO? RIGHT ON MY HEAD
slipper
Ow!

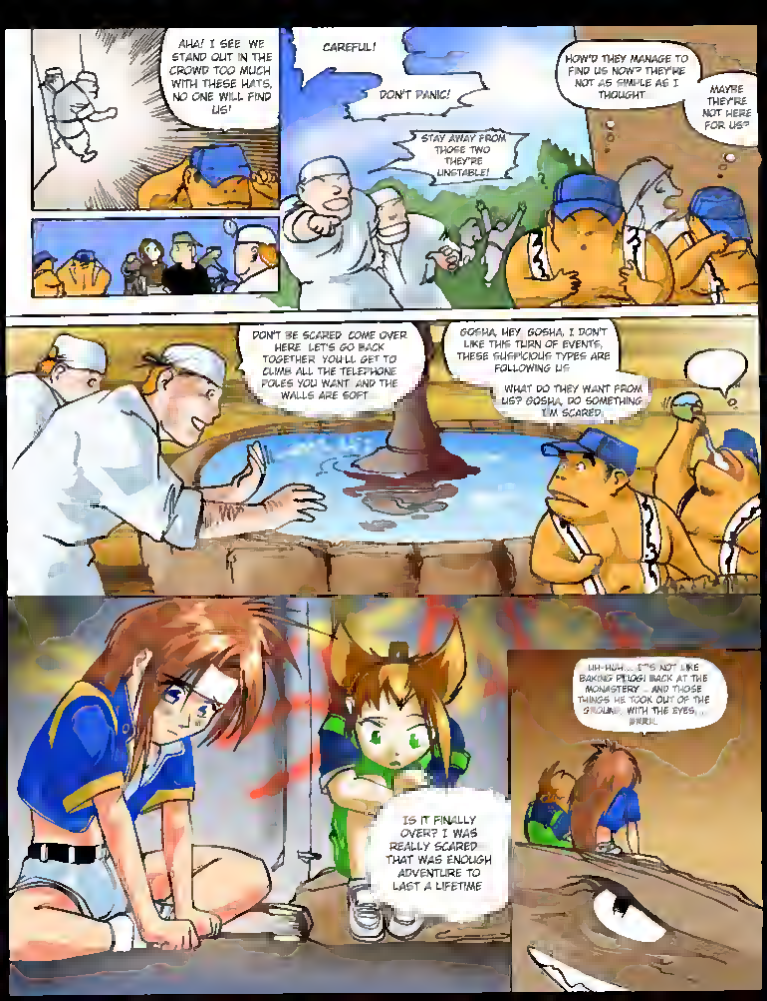
HOKA
...fought evil with these hands today...
WHERE'S THE BOOK?
THE BATTLE WITH THE GOSHAS, N WHICH EVEN AGANA TOOK PART WAS BRIEF. CONCLUDING THAT THEY COULDN'T MANAGE THE BROTHERS WITHOUT THE BOOK NIKA AND AGANA DECIDED TO RETURN HOME
HEY, DID YOU GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
AND WHY ARE YOU SO SERIOUS?
OH, AND DI
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENING. I WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT. LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO POOR
WHY IS EVERYONE DIGGING THROUGH MY STUFF?
YEAH, NIK..?
NAH, IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD BE LAUGHING OR SOMETHING?
TO THINK THAT WE - THE GREAT AND UNBEATABLE GOSHAS HAVE TASTED DEFEAT AND LOST OUR ENEMY THEY ATTACKED US WITH OUR OWN SLIPPER, TWICE! FOR SHAME AND IT WAS ALL THAT RUNT WHO RUNS WITH THE GINGER.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT. THEY'RE TOO STINGY TO EVEN GIVE A GOOD TOOL FOR A NOBLE DEED
NO NO NO, DON'T YOU DARE JUST BREAK LIKE THAT. WE PAID MONEY FOR YOU! WORK RIGHT NOW!!!
WHAT'S UP WITH IT? IT BROKE. DIDN'T IT, GOSHA? WHY DID IT GO ALL QUIET? WHY'D IT MAKE THAT *OOOOTSK * SOUND?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
BUT NO MATTER, WITH THIS THING WE'LL FIND THEM AND COMPLETE OUR MISSION
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE JUST ASKED FOR A DOG. FEELS MORE RELIABLE SOMEHOW
OF COURSE IT'S MORE RELIABLE BUT ASKING FOR SOMETHING FROM THE CHAINCELLERY - THEY'LL TURN YOU INTO A DOG BEFORE THEY SHARE THE MOLDIEST ONE THEY HAVE


HEY, FATASSES...DID YOU WANNA PLAY? I'M READY!
NIKA'S GONNA HAVE FUN NOW... BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE? MIGHT GET HIT BY A STRAY SLIPPER.
HERE I GO!!!
HERE SHE IS OOSHU! I SEE THE ZOOK' IT CAME TO US ON ITS OWN.
BROTHER! BROTHER! WHERE'D YOU GO?
HERE, BROTHER, DON'T BE SCARED...THEY DON'T HAVE THE SLIPPER ANYMORE! BROTHER BROTHI... HURRY UP! YOU KNOW OOSHA AND I ARE TOO NICE, WE CAN'T DO IT LIKE YOU!
BY THE WAY WHERE DID GI-GI GO. HE DISAP-PEARED TWO EPISODES AGO. WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
ZZNNNZZZ
WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE'D THEY GO? AND I WAS JUST STARTING...
AH... THAT BOGDAN PROBABLY JUST FORGOT TO DRAW HIM, WHY ELSE WOULD HE DISAPPEAR?
OH... THAT D-DEFINITELY HI-HIT...
UH-HUH! DI-DIRECT HI-HIT WHERE ON EARTH IS H-BROTHER?

NOW THIS FIGHT IS MINE!
AS IF!
NOT FOR ANYTHING! WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS WE'RE GETTING UP FIGHT NOW
COME OUT! YOUR BIG BROTHER IS DONE I JUST USED HIM TO TRY OUT ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFYING SPELLS IN THE BOOK
NIKA, HE STILL GOT UP, HE DID IT...
HUH?
WHY WON'T YOU OPEN, YOU USELESS BOOK. OPEEEEN!

WHAT DID I MISS? SECOND SHELL READY!
NO, ASANA, THE SPELL REACHED ITS TARGET IT JUST STARTED TAKING EFFECT
HOW COULD THAT BE? I COULDN'T HIT ANY OF THE THREE AND AT THIS DISTANCE?!
YOU JUST HAVE BAD AIM!
BWWAAAA
MAYBE BEING TOUCHY IS A SIDE EFFECT OF THE CURSE OF CROOKEDNESS"?
AH! SHE TREATED HIM WITH SUCH CRUELTY. HE'S SO VULNERABLE. SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS WEAKNESS
YEAH, GOSHA, IT'S SO EASY TO HURT HIS FEELINGS
THAT'S IT. THIS WAS THE LAST DROP, GOSHA. WHERE ARE THE PILLS? IN YOUR POCKET?
WHAT POCKET? I DON'T HAVE ANY POCKETS! YOU FORGOT THEM AGAIN, YOU BUNGLER!

THE BATTLE DRAGGED ON AND NIKA WAS AFRAID FOR THE FIRST TIME. REALIZING THAT POWERFUL SPELLS TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF STRENGTH TO CAST. BUT NIKA DEFEATED THE GOSHAS! FORMIDABLE OLDER BROTHER AND. BECAUSE THE BROTHERS CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TOO PEACEABLE THE BATTLE ENDED WITHOUT A VICTOR.
AH! THAT'S WHERE THEY WERE HIDING!
THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL US LEGENDARY HEROES. WE ALWAYS DEFEAT EVIL. NOW WE'LL DRINK OUR BEER, AND IT WILL MAKE US FEARLESS AND MERCILESS. THEN THE BOOK WILL DEFINITELY BE OURS!
RIGHT THEN, THE STREET, WHICH HAD BEEN EMPTY FOR SOME TIME, SAW THE ARRIVAL OF A NEWCOMER, OR, RATHER, THREE.
WHAT WERE THEY DOING HERE?
THERE. THAT'S THEM! I TOLD YOU! THEY'RE CRAZY
LOOK HOW THEY'RE WALKING AROUND DRESSED LIKE THAT. THEY'RE JUMPING AROUND ON TELEPHONE POLES AND BOTHERING PEOPLE ON THE STREET. SAW IT MYSELF.
THAT'S ALL A LIE. WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT. ESPECIALLY NOT THE POLES
NO, I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING.
AH? HE HE, HOW'D WE GET HERE? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, IT'S ... REFLEX... YEAH, YEAH... REFLEX.
GET THEM OFF THERE. WE WILL RID HUMANITY OF THEIR THREAT! WE ARE THE SUPER NURSES!!!
WE DID IT! THOUGH... WHAT DID WE DO, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY? WE NEED THE BOOK. FIRST OF ALL.. GOOD GRIEF! THESE REFLEXES OF MINE...
WHY'S EVERYONE STARING AT ME? CHECK MY ASS, DO I HAVE IT WRITTEN THERE?


AHA! I SEE WE STAND OUT IN THE CROWD TOO MUCH WITH THESE HATS, NO ONE WILL FIND US!
CAREFUL!
DON'T PANIC!
STAY AWAY FROM THOSE TWO THEY'RE UNSTABLE!
HOW'D THEY MANAGE TO FIND US NOW? THEY'RE NOT AS SMALL AS I THOUGHT
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT HERE FOR US?
DON'T BE SCARED COME OVER HERE LET'S GO BACK TOGETHER YOU'LL GET TO CLIMB ALL THE TELEPHONE POLES YOU WANT AND THE WALLS ARE SOFT
GOSHA, HEY GOSHA, I DON'T LIKE THIS TURN OF EVENTS, THESE SUSPICIOUS TYPES ARE FOLLOWING US
WHAT DO THEY WANT FROM US? GOSHA, DO SOMETHING I'M SCARED.
IS IT FINALLY OVER? I WAS REALLY SCARED THAT WAS ENOUGH ADVENTURE TO LAST A LIFETIME
UH-HUH... IT'S NOT LIKE BAKING PIES BACK AT THE MONASTERY... AND THOSE THINGS HE TOOK OUT OF THE GROUND WITH THE EYES... BRRR.

NIKA?
YEAH.
WHERE "DID" SI-01 GO?
WHERE WHO? OH, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT HIM MAYBE THEY DETACHED HIM FROM US? THAT CHANCELLERY OF HIS DECIDED IT'S BOTHERED US ENOUGH?
I GUESS.
NIKA, CAN I LOOK AT THAT BOOK THAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS WHOLE MESS? WHAT'S IN THERE?
CAN'T DO THAT. THE DEAL IS THAT THE ROOK IS ONLY MINE AND NO ONE BUT ME CAN OPEN IT. UNTIL I WILLINGLY CONFER IT TO SOMEONE ELSE.
HM! I DIDN'T WANNA LOOK ANYWAY (SO GREEDY!)
SO CAN YOU WALK?
GET UP — WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT.
WHY'S SHOPPING THIS HARD...
I'M SO TIRED...
WHY DID IT GET SO DARK ALL OF A SUDDEN?
OH, THAT... "PAGE 243 OF THE MAGIC BOOK, SECTION ON "GOLDEN CREATURES": GOLDEN DRAGON. IT'S A DANGEROUS THING. BETTER NOT FIGHT IT. NOT TODAY, ANYWAY... SAVING HUMANITY CAN WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW... DONE! HOME, HOME...
YEAH, ENOUGH FUN FOR TODAY. LET THEM FIGURE OUT THOSE GOLDEN DRAGONS ON THEIR OWN. WHAT CAN'T IT MANAGE WITHOUT US ALL THAT HUMANITY?
AW, IT'S SO CUTE! IF I WEREN'T SO TIRED, I GUESS I'D BE CURED.

GOOD EVENING GIRLS NOW THEN, ARE WE HANDING OVER THE BOOK TO THE TWO NICE MEN?
WHO ARE YOU?!! WHAT A DAY. EVERYONE'S TRYING TO TAKE THE BOOK.
LOOK AT THAT, THEY'VE FORGOTTEN US ALREADY...
FROM NOW ON, NO MORE JOKES AND DELAYS.
YOU CAN EAT THOSE TWO. WE DON'T NEED THEM. WE ONLY NEED...
...THE BOOK.
NIKA, NIKA, DO SOMETHING. I'M SCARED
NO. I CAN'T.
FIREBOLT...
THE SPELL I CAST ON THEIR BROTHER TOOK TOO MUCH...
NIKA?..
...MUCH STRENGTH, AND I... I...
...WANNA SLEEP...

NIKA?
CLOSE BY, ON THE SAME STREET
WHERE? WHERE ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING THIS TO ME?
WHY'D IT JUST GET SO DARK? BAM! THERE'S SOME DEVERY SMOOTH BAM BAM BAM...
...AH, NO WOOD TO KNOCK ON... WHAT A LIFE, WHAT A CITY... NO, THIS IS UNBEARABLE. JUST WHERE'S THAT LOUSY DOG. TO THINK, EVERYTHING I PUT UP WITH BECAUSE OF IT! ONLY THING I REALLY WANT NOW IS TO MEET THAT TYPE WHO SOLD ME THAT "PUREBRED SHEPHERD". DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE A DACHSHUND.
BUT SERIOUSLY. WHAT'S THIS WITCHCRAFT. IT'S ONLY TWO IN THE AFTERNOON. EVEN IN THE WINTER IT DOESN'T GET DARK THIS EARLY AND WHAT'S "PAAA"ING LIKE THAT?
PAAA
THE BOOK WILL SOON BE OU...S!
UMBA-YUMBA... ...OURS.
THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING SCARY, NIKA. THEY WANT TO FEED US TO THE DRAGON, NIKA!
IS IT THAT HARD TO PUT A LITTLE EFFORT INTO SAVING US BOTH?! FINE, KEEP NAPPING, YOU EGOIST!
OH NO, NIKA, I WAS KIDDING... COME ON... GET UP...
THE TIME HAS COME TO USE OUR "WISH"... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, GOSHA? THE ONE THE DRAGON PROMISED

GRANT US OUR WISH. EAT THEM.
WE ONLY NEED THE BOOK.
NIKA, WAKE UP! PLEASE! WHAT'S WRONG WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER?!!
WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?
SOMEONE HELP!!!
NOT LIKE THAT, YOU STUPID CROCODILE, NOT US TOO! EAT THEM WITHOUT US!!!
AAAAAA

TAN:

CHAPTER 2 END.

54 PAGES, EXCLUDING THIS ONE.

44632 CHARACTERS IN THE SCRIPT, INCLUDING SFX. THAT'S MORE THAN TWICE THE LENGTH OF CHAPTER 1'S SCRIPT

CLEANING THOSE PANELS WITH ALL THE BACKGROUND TEXT WAS UNSURPRISINGLY LABORIOUS. I FEEL LIKE I COULD DO IT BETTER NEXT TIME, THOUGH. ^^

I'VE GOT A BETTER PROCESS THIS TIME:

1. READ
2. WRITE OUT SCRIPT
3. CLEAN AND REDRAW TYPESETTING SFX GHOST OF THE WORK)
4. WITH SFX OUT OF THE WAY, TYPESET THE ACTUAL TEXT AND EDIT AS I GO

SEEMS TO WORK.

GOING TO TAKE A BREAK BEFORE DOING CHAPTER 3. THIS WAS SUBSTANTIALLY HARDER THAN CHAPTER 1, BUT I'M GETTING BETTER AT THE PROCESS.

THIS TEXT IS INDEED AT AN ANGLE. I LET ASANA PROOFREAD IT. :P

A FEW LINES STILL BOTHER ME, ESPECIALLY THE ONES WITH "PIROG". IT SOUNDS BETTER IN RUSSIAN. :\, I FEEL THAT I'VE AGONIZED ENOUGH, SO IT'S AS GOOD AS IT'S GONNA GET. XD

THREE MORE CHAPTERS TO GO